

Wabash Plain Dealer

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WEEKEND EDITION FEBRUARY 15-16, 2020

Tomorrow's weather

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Wabash Plain Dealer's new website now available

Check out our new website at www.wabashplaindealer.com and let us know what you think. If you had an account on our previous site, you will need to create a new account. If you registered with the same email address we will be able to locate your previous subscription as well. Once registered, you can also verify your subscription. Please contact web support@wabashplaindealer.com with any questions. Thank you!

Wabash Plain Dealer's new office now open

The Wabash Plain Dealer's new office is now open on the second floor at 99 W. Canal St.

MSD to host community presentation Feb. 17

MSD of Wabash County will be hosting a Community Presentation to share updates on their Strategic Plan at 7 to 8:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 17 at Northfield Jr./Sr. High School, 154 W. 200 North.

'Ask a Teenager' Tech Basics class scheduled

"Ask a Teenager" Tech Basics: 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18 at Living Well Winchester Center, 239 Bond Str. Sign up requested by calling 260-563-4475. Bring your electronic devices and your questions, assistance provided by Heartland Career Center Tech students.

Salamonie Preschool offers 'E is for Energy!'

Preschool-age children and their adults are invited to Salamonie Preschool's "E is for Energy!" from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19 at Salamonie Interpretive Center, 3691 S. New Holland Road, Andrews. The program fee is \$2 per child. Advance registration is appreciated. Register by calling Upper Wabash Interpretive Services at 260-468-2127. For more information on other UWIS programs, visit dnr.IN.gov/uwis or facebook.com/upperwabash.

Honeywell Foundation's annual art competition open

The Honeywell Foundation's Clark Gallery will be hosting its annual 92 County Art Show through Wednesday, Feb. 19. A public reception for this event will take place at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19. For more information, contact Michele Hughes at mhughes@HoneywellFoundation.org or call the Honeywell Center Box

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Make It Your Own Mural Fest announced

Three potential Wabash County locations submitted for the project

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

The Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership, in collaboration with Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne, Inc., announced Thursday the creation of Make It Your Own Mural Fest, according to Kate Virag, vice president of marketing and strategic communications.

The mural festival begins Tuesday, Sept. 8, and runs until Friday, Sept. 18, throughout Northeast Indiana's 11 counties including Adams, Allen, DeKalb, Huntington, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, Wabash, Wells and Whitley.

In response to a Plain Dealer request Friday, Andrea Zwiebel, Wabash Marketplace executive director, stated Brooke Vanderpool of Manchester Alive is the new lead for the Wabash County steering committee. Zwiebel stated Wabash County submitted three potential locations; two in North Manchester (the old

firehouse and the Selleck Building) and one in Wabash (the wastewater treatment plant).

"The NEIRP will announce the official locations in March," she stated. "This project gave Wabash County an opportunity to collaborate — which is always great. Regardless of which location is selected, our county will benefit from a new piece of public art. We want to continue to grow our arts and cultural assets. We are excited to learn more about the location, mural artist and design. Stay tuned for more details."

The regional mural festival concept, the first of its kind in the state, builds on the quality of place efforts accelerated by the Regional Cities Initiative, growing regional pride and garnering significant attention and exposure nationally.

"Make It Your Own Mural Fest is an innovative, creative activation of the Make It Your Own brand intended to enhance the region's efforts to drive talent attraction, talent retention and tourism by investing in the quality of place assets and public art," stated Virag.

Over 11 days, regional, national and international

artists will create 11 high-quality murals — one in each of the 11 counties of Northeast Indiana. The murals all will be unveiled on the same day, with celebrations and events taking place all over the region throughout the duration of the festival to recognize the artists and the communities.

Each county in Northeast Indiana is participating in this inaugural event, and specific mural locations will be announced soon. Locations in each county are determined through a community-led selection

See PROJECT, page A2

Imagine One85 strategic plan announced

State of Our Communities event held Wednesday

By STAFF REPORT

A new countywide plan to address population decline was announced on Wednesday, Feb. 12, at Grow Wabash County's annual State of Our Communities event, according to a press release.

Imagine One85 was named in part by Wabash County's county number: 85. This project will involve formulating one comprehensive strategic plan that includes every city and town in Wabash County, as well as from county officials, about what the county needs to do to arrest and reverse the trend of declining population in the area.

"This plan is the result of extensive work with community stakeholders and outside consultants to determine the factors that have already led to population decline in Wabash County and methods to change the narrative and stimulate population growth," stated the release.

The Community Foundation of Wabash County intends to apply for the Lilly Endowment GIFT VII Implementation Grant to help cover the costs of the expansive plan. Manchester University has committed to providing an additional \$50,000 and Grow Wabash County has agreed to contribute additional funding as well. Fundraising efforts are underway to acquire the rest of the funds needed to develop and implement the plan.

During Wednesday's event, leaders from the Wabash County Commissioners and Wabash County's cities and towns centered their presentations around this topic of population growth and how their communities were

See PLAN, page A2



Photo by Rob Burgess / Plain Dealer

Almost 52 years to the day after Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke at what was then Manchester College, Tayna Fogle, co-chair of the Kentucky Poor People's Campaign, took to the stage Tuesday, Feb. 4 at the Cordier Auditorium to help carry the same torch.

Poor People's Campaign at Manchester

Anniversary of MLK speech marked with a call for voting rights

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

Almost 52 years to the day after Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke at what was then Manchester College, Tayna Fogle, co-chair of the Kentucky Poor People's Campaign, took to the stage Tuesday, Feb. 4 at the Cordier Auditorium to help carry the same torch.

"Fogle is a mother, a former felon and a powerful leader in her community. As co-chair of the Kentucky Poor People's Campaign, her work has transformed policy and policymakers," stated Anne Gregory is the assistant director of media relations in the Office of

Strategic Communications.

Fogle is the Democracy Fellow at Kentuckians for the Commonwealth. She is also a former addict who spent nearly a decade in prison. She spoke about the power of grassroots organizing in Kentucky, whether it is to restore voting rights to former felons or using civil disobedience as a tool to make a change.

"I am so proud of you all," said Fogle, to the audience of mostly students. "You all are our future. We are counting on you. My age, people in my community, we dropped the ball. We were so busy getting high, we let life pass us. And I'm sad about that. However, you guys can help fix that for me. Please help us change this nation. I'm counting on you. Voter suppression is violence. Not allowing people to have a voice at the polls,

that's injustice."

Fogle asked the students to not only vote and bring others with them to the polls, but to attend the June 20 Mass Poor People's Assembly & Moral March on Washington, D.C.

"We are always focused on the mayor, the governor and the president, and it's the Congress that makes these horrible decisions we have seen in years past," she said.

Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear signed an executive order in December 2019 to restore voting rights for more than 140,000 nonviolent offenders who have completed their sentences, according to the Associated Press.

The new Democratic governor was surrounded by voting-rights supporters in the state Capitol Rotunda as he signed the order on his

third day in office, fulfilling a campaign pledge.

Fogle said the change didn't come overnight, and the fight for voting rights is ongoing and will take many more years.

"I have gone through the fire, and come out on the other side," she said. "I get the push back because people think that folks like myself we don't have a voice at the table. But, see, I not eating the crumbs from the table, I'm sitting at the table with them and making decisions. In Kentucky, I worked 16 years to try to get the voting law changed. ... We are in a marathon, not a sprint, even though some sprint things have to happen because we have to fast track some of this stuff."

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

Manchester offers graduate certificate in pharmacogenomics

Online program designed for health care professionals

By ANNE GREGORY

Manchester University, a national leader in pharmacogenomics education, is expanding its program with an online graduate certificate designed for health care professionals seeking to enhance, expand and differentiate their practice.

It begins in the fall semester of 2020.

Pharmacogenomics (PGx), a major component of personalized medicine or precision medicine, tailors an individual's drug therapy based on their genetic makeup (DNA). Utilizing the relationship between an individual's genes and their response to a medication can optimize therapy early on and help avoid or decrease the risk of

See CERTIFICATE, page A2



Provided photo

Dave Kisor is the director of pharmacogenomics at MU.

From page A1

The final unveiling event

Make It Your Own Mural Fest is supported through sponsorships from Parkview Health, 3Rivers Federal Credit Union, Am-

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

From page A1

The community speakers featured were: Brian Hupert from the Wabash County Commissioners, Kristie Bone from the town of Lagro, Bob Ferguson from the town of Roann, Diana Heath from the Town of LaFontaine, Allen Miracle from the town of North Manchester

From page A1

“If you want to expand your

As the event attendees exited the Honeywell Center's Legacy Hall on Wednesday, they were also invited to show their support for population growth initiatives by signing a banner laid out in the lobby.

"We are thankful to all of the local companies and individuals that showed their support for this annual event by signing on as event sponsors," stated the release.

Manchester offers an on-campus, one-year master's

Anne Gregory is the assistant director of media relations in the Office of Strategic Communications at Manchester University.

**READERS' CHOICE
REPORTS**

**THURSDAY'S
LOTTERIES**

Cash 5
16-20-25-26-42
Estimated jackpot: \$225,500

Cash4Life
01-11-27-45-47, Cash Ball: 4

Daily Three-Midday
1-8-3, SB: 2

Daily Three-Evening
8-0-4, SB: 3

Daily Four-Midday
0-7-0-3, SB: 2

Daily Four-Evening
4-2-6-3, SB: 3

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$40 million

Powerball
Estimated jackpot: \$40 million

FRIDAY'S METALS

Aluminum.....	77
Copper.....	2.59
Lead.....	85
Zinc.....	98
Gold.....	1,581.54
Silver.....	17.76
Platinum.....	965.01

AREA GRAIN

Estimated grain prices Friday at Indianapolis-area elevators: Corn: \$3.97. Soybeans: \$8.84.

Harriette Cole is a lifestyleist and founder of DREAMLEAPERS, an initiative to help people access and activate their dreams. You can send questions to askharriette@harriettecole.com or c/o Andrews McMeel Syndication, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106.

Community

‘It’s all history now’

Some 250 Wabash County farmers jammed the Wabash Circuit Courtroom, then in the Courthouse, in mid-February 1920 at

Pete Jones
a meeting designed to expand a farmers’ alliance in Indiana. Disagreeably cold and snowy weather failed to diminish the size of the

crowd that gathered to hear Lewis Taylor, secretary of the Indiana Federation of Farmers.

“Every other class of citizens in the United States except for farmers is organizing,” Taylor told the crowd.

“Now farmers are seeing the wisdom and are organizing,” he said.

The farmers’ group already had 900 members in this county, but its membership goal stood at 2,000. Today, it’s difficult to imagine 2,000 or more farmers in Wabash County, but a check of the 1920 census records shows that in 1920 there were 2,529 working farms here. Of that total, 1,497 were owner-occupied.

The average farm in Wabash County consisted of 98.9 acres, not all of which were tillable. The census placed a value of \$127.52 on each acre of farmland. By contrast, in 2018 there were 745 farms in the coun-

ty, and the average farm consisted of 265 acres.

The effort to organize farmers picked up momentum in the early spring with a series of recruiting meetings held at various places around the county. With more than 2,500 farms in the county, organizers believed their goal of 2,000 members was reasonable.

Hot sled ride

The cold and snow of mid-February 1895 were conducive to sleighing parties, organized mostly by young people. One such party, consisting mostly of folks from the Speicherville area turned out to be quite a hot affair.

A bobsled filled with happy people came from Speicherville to Wabash where they took advantage of the steep hills before making several runs through the downtown area

As the group headed for home, Sheb Caldwell, one of the passengers, accidentally kicked over a lantern which the driver was using to warm his feet. Oil from the lantern ignited and caught Caldwell’s pants on fire. The quick-witted driver turned the horse into the lane at the Wabash County Poor Farm (near the intersection of today’s Indiana 13 and Highway 24) and Caldwell vaulted from the sled into a large snowbank to extinguish the flames.

The reporter who wrote the story in the Plain Dealer

implied that Caldwell’s big feet (size 14) were to blame.

Price hikes

In February 1920, Wabash pharmacies which had soda fountains announced that sodas and sundaes would soon cost a nickel more. Gone were the ten-cent delicacies, which would soon cost 15 cents. On the brighter side, these merchants also said they would keep the price of fountain Cokes and phosphates at 5 cents, plus the 1-cent war tax which still lingered more than a year after the end of World War I.

On this day

On this day in 1910, Charles Bolte, the newly installed chief of police, declared war on reckless drivers. Bolte vowed that he would personally contact each and every automobile owner (there weren’t many autos here in 1910) and warn them that they would be summoned to the mayor’s police court if they violated speed limits. The City Council had imposed speed limits of 8 miles per hour in the business district and fifteen-miles-per-hour in residential areas.

Pete Jones writes a weekly column on local history for the Wabash Plain Dealer. He writes about people, places and events in and around Wabash County. Contact him by mail at 1160 Sunset Drive, Wabash, IN 46992 or by email at peteinwabash@comcast.net.



Samuel Reichenbach, of Manchester Jr-Sr High School, was recognized as one of the 2019-20 DAR Good Citizens.

Frances Slocum Chapter of the DAR holds February meeting

The 2019-20 DAR Good Citizens were recognized

By STAFF REPORT

The monthly meeting of the Frances Slocum Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) took place on Tuesday, Feb. 11 at the Grandstaff-Hentgen Activity Room, according to a press release.

Ten guests were welcomed new member Sandy Smith, Wabash, Kathleen Nave, Huntington, Robin Daihl, Lagro, Eric and Sam Reichenbach, Brett, Mary Jo, and Emma Grace Wynn, Richard Baker, all of North Manchester, and Shawn Dunnagan, Richvalley.

The meeting opened with the DAR ritual. Joyce Joy, vice regent, conducted a welcome ceremony for new member Sandy Smith.

The 2019-20 DAR Good Citizens were recognized; Emma Grace Wynn, Northfield Jr-Sr High School and Samuel Reichenbach, Manchester Jr-Sr High School.

The DAR Good Citizens Program and Scholarship consists of two parts. Part one describes the senior student, a grade transcript and

two letters of recommendation. Part two is a timed essay on the title: Our American Heritage and Our Responsibility for Preserving It; Focus Question: “You and your peers are our nation’s leaders of tomorrow. How would you energize America’s youth to fully engage as effective citizens? Why is that important?” Each candidate presented their 550-word essay. Three non-DAR judges selected Samuel Reichenbach to represent the Frances Slocum Chapter, of Wabash County, in the state competition. The state winner will be announced May 17 at the DAR Awards Day Luncheon in Indianapolis.

The monthly program was the Miami Nation of Indians of the state of Indiana, Inc. presented by Shawn Dunnagan, spiritual leader of the Council. Their home office is 80 W. 6th St., Peru. The Indiana Miami Nation is no longer a Federally recognized tribe. Shawn shared the long struggle the nation has worked to regain that recognition. We were serenaded by special Indian songs which were accompanied by Shawn on his hand drum.

The January President General’s message from Denise Doring VanBuren was

shared by Joyce Joy.

“We celebrate Valentine’s Day this month and there is no better time to thank the big-hearted women who have sustained your chapter by long-term membership and devotion to our society. Take a few moments to write them a note, thanking them for their years of support. A short note of thanks will surely brighten their day,” stated the release.

Correspondence was an invitation to the Olde Towne DAR Chapter, Logansport, to attend their “Women’s Suffrage & 19th Amendment 100th Anniversary Commemoration” on Thursday, Feb. 13 at the Cass County Courthouse, Logansport.

The next meeting of the Frances Slocum Chapter will be March 10 at the Grandstaff-Hentgen Activity Room. Prospective members and guests are always welcome to attend. DAR membership is open to any woman 18 years of age, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution.

Those having questions about their family history lineage information may visit www.dar.org or call Linda Thompson at 260-563-4661 or Barbara Amiss at 260-982-4376.

GriefShare support group meets Wednesdays

GriefShare grief recovery support group will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays at the Congregational Christian Church, 310 N. Walnut St., North Manchester. Participant workbooks can be purchased for \$15. Scholarships are available. For more information or to register, call 260-982-2882.

AYC opens weekly after school program at a second location

Access Youth Center (AYC) has recently expanded to a second south side location for a weekly after school program. Food, games, homework help are available 5 to 6 p.m. Mondays at the main entrance of New Journey Church, formerly WC Mills School, 1721 N. Vernon St. It is a free program for students ages 8 to 18. Parents and guardians are also welcome.

Line Dance scheduled each Wednesday

Led by Sherry Wakefield at

WEEKLY EVENTS

8:45 a.m. every Wednesday, at Living Well Winchester Center, 239 Bond St. Dancing that is both fun and free. No fee, no registration, just fun.

Low Impact Fitness classes scheduled

Fitness that is both fun and free led by Mary Jo McClelland at 9:45 a.m. every Monday and Thursday, and 3 p.m. Wednesdays at Living Well Winchester Center, 239 Bond St. There is no fee or registration required.

Cancer care advocate available every Tuesday

A cancer care advocate is available from 1 to 4 p.m. every Tuesday at the Winchester Senior Center, 239 Bond St. No appointment is needed. This service is supported by the Hope Foundation and provided by Cancer Services out of Fort Wayne.

Yoga classes scheduled on Tuesdays

Yoga for those who are intermediate to experienced levels have been scheduled

for 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays at the Living Well Winchester Center, 239 Bond St. The cost is \$10, and discount passes are available.

DivorceCare to meet every Tuesday

DivorceCare, a 13-week DVD series sponsored by Wabash Friends Counseling Center, features some of the nation’s foremost Christian experts on topics concerning divorce and recovery, according to a press release. The support group meets at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday in Room 112 in the Wabash Friends Church, 3563 South State Road 13. Group leader and members of the group meet for dinner at 5:30 p.m. at Subway, 1812 S. Wabash St. on State Road 15. For more information, call 260-563-8453, 877-350-1658 or group leader Janet Quillen at 260-571-5235; email office@wabashfriends.org; or visit www.divorcecare.org.

Editor’s note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplaindealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.

Facebook reverses on paid influencers after Bloomberg memes

By BARBARA ORTUTAY and AMANDA SEITZ
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Facebook has decided to let political campaigns pay online influencers to spread their messages, a practice that had sidestepped many of the social network’s rules governing political ads.

Friday’s policy reversal highlights difficulties tech companies and regulators have in keeping up with the changing nature of paid political messages.

The change comes days after Democratic presidential candidate Mike Bloomberg exploited a loophole to run humorous messages promoting his campaign on the accounts of popular Instagram personalities followed by millions of younger people.

The Bloomberg posts weren’t much more than self-deprecating humor used to sell the candidate’s old guy appeal, using a tactic that until now was largely used to sell skin care products or clothing-subscrip-

tion services. But the lack of oversight and clear rules around influencer marketing, not to mention their effectiveness in reaching younger audiences, makes them ripe for misuse.

Bloomberg’s effort skirted many of the rules that tech companies have imposed on political ads to safeguard U.S. elections from malicious foreign and domestic interference and misinformation. Online political ads have been controversial, especially after it was revealed Russia used them in an attempt to influence the 2016 presidential election. In response, Facebook has rolled out a number of rules to prevent a repeat of that, though it has declined to fact-check political ads and refuses to ban even blatantly false messages from politicians.

Before the explosion of social media, it was clearer what’s an ad and what isn’t — and thus what’s subject to disclosures and other rules. With social media, a campaign can pay celebrities and other influential users

to spread a message on their behalf, without ever buying an ad and be subject to its rules.

“This is a new kind of activity that simply didn’t exist when the rules for internet political communications were last updated,” said Commissioner Ellen L. Weintraub of the Federal Election Commission.

Friday’s policy change involves what Facebook calls “branded content” — sponsored items posted by ordinary users who are typically paid by companies or organizations. Advertisers pay the influential users directly to post about their brand.

Facebook doesn’t make money directly from such posts and doesn’t consider them advertising. As a result, branded content wasn’t governed by Facebook’s advertising policies, which require candidates and campaigns to verify their identity with a U.S. ID or mailing address and disclose how much they spent running each ad.

Until Friday, Facebook tried to deter campaigns

from using such branded content by barring them from using a tool designed to help advertisers run such posts on Facebook and Instagram, which is owned by Facebook. The rule change now allows campaigns in the U.S. to use this tool, provided they’ve been authorized by Facebook to run political ads and disclose who paid for the sponsored posts. Campaigns that avoid using the tool, as Bloomberg had, risk having their accounts suspended.

“After hearing from multiple campaigns, we agree that there’s a place for branded content in political discussion on our platforms,” Facebook said in an exclusive statement to The Associated Press. “We’re allowing U.S.-based political candidates to work with creators to run this content.”

Politicians still won’t be required to disclose how much they paid the influencers to run the posts. And the posts won’t appear in Facebook’s ad library, which publicly catalogs political ads and al-

lows other campaigns, journalists and watchdog groups to view the type of messages politicians are pushing in the election.

Facebook’s new rules won’t apply to someone merely creating or sharing a post about a politician without getting paid.

Facebook said it is asking the influencer accounts that posted the Bloomberg memes to retroactively use the tool meant for such posts. After this happens, the posts will be labeled as a “paid partnership” with Bloomberg.

Google says it doesn’t allow political messages using its main tools for connecting with influencers, but campaigns can make individual arrangements with YouTube influencers. These videos would be covered under general disclosure rules, but would not be added to Google’s political advertising database.

The Bloomberg campaign had taken the unconventional step of paying social media influencers — individ-

uals with huge followings — to post Bloomberg memes using their Instagram accounts. Different versions of the sponsored posts from the Bloomberg campaign ran on more than a dozen influential Instagram accounts, each of which have millions of followers.

The Bloomberg campaign’s memes showed the 78-year-old candidate, in a tongue-in-cheek awkward fashion, chatting with popular social media influencers with names like “Tank Sinatra,” asking them to help him raise his profile among younger folk.

“Can you post a meme that lets everyone know I’m the cool candidate?” Bloomberg wrote in one of the exchanges posted by an Instagram account with nearly 15 million followers. The candidate then sent a photo of him wearing baggy chino shorts, an orange polo and a zip-up vest. The reply: “Ooof that will cost like a billion dollars.” The billionaire candidate responded by asking where to send the money.

Obituaries

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Roann Chapel • 765-833-5591
Memorial Lawns Cemetery, Wabash • 260-563-0421
www.grandstaff-hentgen.com

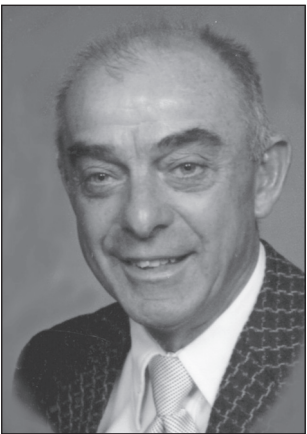
Donald E Goff

May 21, 1928 – Feb. 14, 2020

Donald E Goff, 91, of Wabash, Indiana, died at 1:30 a.m., Friday, Feb. 14, 2020 at Miller's Merry Manor East in Wabash. He was born May 21, 1928 in Marion, Indiana to Roger and Hazel (Watson) Goff.

Donald was a 1946 graduate of Chippewa High School. He married Helenjean Biltz at the St. Bernard Catholic Church in Wabash on Aug. 26, 1950. He was a US Army veteran and ran a truck crane in Korea. Donald was a self employed heavy equipment operator and an excavating contractor. He was a member of St. Bernard Catholic Church in Wabash, and the Warsaw American Legion Post 49. He enjoyed antiques, restoring old machinery, and especially loved his family.

He is survived by his wife, Helenjean Goff and son, Steven Michael (Donna) Goff, both of Wabash, three grandchildren, Indiana Supreme Court Justice Christopher (Raquel) Goff of Brownsburg, Indiana, Ella (Davin) Smith of Roanoke, Indiana and Margaret (Scott) Hare of Chapel Hill, Tennessee, 10 great grandchildren, 2 great great grandchildren, and his



brother, Maurice (Vickie) Goff of Richvalley, Indiana. He was preceded in death by his parents, and three brothers, Raymond, Charles, and Jerry Goff.

A funeral mass will be 10:30 Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2020 at St. Bernard Catholic Church, 188 W. Sinclair, Wabash. Burial will be in Oakwood Cemetery, Warsaw. Friends may call 4 – 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, 1241 Manchester Avenue, Wabash, with a rosary service at 6:30 p.m.

Preferred memorial is St. Bernard Catholic Church.

The memorial guest book for Donald may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

Sammie Howard Jr, 89, North Manchester passed 4:20 a.m. on Feb. 13, 2020. Sammie was born Oct. 2, 1930, to Sammie and Stella Mae (Whitaker) Howard in Salyersville, Kentucky.

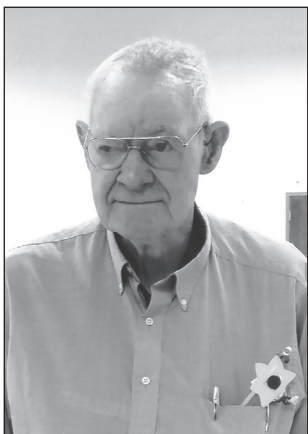
Sam was a follower of Christ and loved God his father. He was a member of the North Manchester Missionary Church and loved his church family as well.

He spent the majority of his work career at Ford Meter Box Company in setup and as assistant foreman. When Sam wasn't working, he enjoyed; watching all sorts of sports, cheering on his favorite teams; the Cleveland Indians, Cleveland Browns, and Kentucky Wildcat Basketball. In addition, Sam enjoyed wood-working for decades and especially enjoyed making cradles for his grandchildren and large bird and squirrel feeders as well. His love of animals showed later in life through his dog, Benji, and Animal Planet TV.

Sam also loved his country and was a proud, patriotic veteran serving in the US Army, stationed in Korea, during the Korean War.

Sammie Howard Jr

Oct. 2, 1930 – Feb. 13, 2020



Most of all Sam loved his family. He was a husband to the love of his life Sylvia for 57 years before her passing, and was a proud parent, grandparent and great grandparent as well. His favorite times were spent enjoying quality time with all members of his family.

He will be remembered for his kindness, compassion, and loving spirit.

Sammie Howard Jr. will be missed by his son, Sammie E. (Sharon) Howard, Midland, Michigan; four daughters, Sue E. Howard, Rita M. (Steven McClure) Howard, Pamela K. Howard, Sheila A. (Mark) Hann all of North Manchester;

seven grandchildren, Chad Betten, Brevard, North Carolina, Chris Betten, Ian Hann, Cody Hann all of North Manchester, Doug Betten, Rochester, Indiana, Madison Howard, Grand Rapids, Michigan, Skylar Howard, Midland, Michigan; seven great-grandchildren, Bryce Betten, Abigail Betten, Allison Betten, Gavin Betten, Elin Betten, Jevin Rhoades, Jacey Rhoades. He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife.

Family and friends may call Monday, Feb. 17, 2020, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at McKee Mortuary, 1401 State Road 114 West, North Manchester. Services will be Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020, 10:30 a.m. at McKee Mortuary. Reverend Ken Sistrunk will officiate the service and burial will be held at Oaklawn Cemetery, 600 Beckley Street, North Manchester, Indiana.

Memorial contributions to North Manchester Missionary Church, 806 State Road 114, North Manchester, Indiana 46962.

Arrangements by McKee Mortuary.

Amid coronavirus fears, a second wave of flu hits U.S. kids

By MIKE STOBBE
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A second wave of flu is hitting the U.S., turning this into one of the nastiest seasons for children in a decade.

The number of child deaths and the hospitalization rate for youngsters are the highest seen at this point in any season since the severe flu outbreak of 2009-10, health officials said Friday. And the wave is expected to keep going for weeks.

Experts say it is potentially a bad time for an extended flu season, given concerns about the new coronavirus out of China, which can cause symptoms that can be difficult to distinguish from flu without testing.

If coronavirus were to begin spreading in the U.S., there could be confusion about whether people are getting sick with it or the flu, said Dr. William Schaffner, an infectious-diseases expert at Vanderbilt University.

PULSE

From page A1

Office at 260-563-1102.

Experience Mardi Gras, Wabash-style

From 12:30 to 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20, at Living Well Winchester Center, 239 Bond St. Featuring Mentalist Chad Collyer, king cake, masks, beads, games and prizes. The 2020 Mardi Gras King and Queen will be announced.

Career Closet donations sought

Donations for the Career Closet will be collected through Friday, Feb. 21. Manchester University will accept gently used professional or business casual clothing and accessories. This event helps students who are not financially able to purchase professional clothing be able to dress appropriately when talking with employers and programs. Donations may be brought to Room 103 of the Chinworth Center on the North Manchester campus or Sarah Lauck at the Fort Wayne campus.

Manchester hosts Polar Plunge to aid Special Olympics

Manchester invites residents of Wabash and Kosciusko counties to Freezin' for a Reason on Saturday, Feb. 22 outside the Physical Education and Recreation Center (PERC). Team members can sign up as participants, which means they jump in the water, or "virtual plungers," who raise money but do not get wet. To register, visit <https://www.firstgiving.com/event/soindiana/Polar-Plunge-North-Manchester>. Events begin at 10 a.m. with sign-ups and welcome, followed by costume judging at noon. The water portion is 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., with the After-Splash Bash lunch at 1:30 p.m.

Manchester Civic Band looking for new members

A callout meeting has been planned for 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26 at the Manchester High School band room through the double doors at the southeast corner of the building. Practices are held beginning at 7 p.m. and ending at either 8:30 or 9 p.m. Wednesdays in the Manchester High School Band Room.

MSD to host community presentation Feb. 27

MSD of Wabash County will be hosting a Community Presentation to share updates on their Strategic Plan at 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27 at Southwood Jr./Sr. High School, 564 Indiana 124.

Somerset Lions Club to hold euchre event

The Somerset Lions Club is set to host a euchre event Saturday, Feb. 29 in the Somerset Community Building. The entry fee is \$10. Registration is from 1 to 1:45 p.m. Play begins at 2 p.m. There will be cash prizes for Most Loners, Highest Score, Second Highest Score, 50-50 Drawing and two drawings for the entry fee. Soft drinks, hot dogs, cookies and chips will be available for a donation. Proceeds will support Somerset projects.

Manchester hosts Spartan Smash high school eSports tourney

High school teams across the Midwest are invited to the Spartan Smash Invitational, a first-time eSports competition, set for Saturday, Feb. 29, on the North Manchester campus of Manchester University. Registration will close at 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28. The tournament bracket will be made available that Saturday morning. Competition is in Flory Auditorium

at the Science Center. For more information and registration, visit <https://smash.gg/tournament/spartan-smash-invitational>.

Salamonie Preschool offers 'S is for Spring' March 3

Preschool-age children and their adults are invited to Salamonie Preschool's "S is for Spring" 1 to 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 3 at Upper Wabash Interpretive Services, 3691 S. New Holland Road, Andrews. The program fee is \$2 per child. Advance registration is appreciated. Register by calling Upper Wabash Interpretive Services at 260-468-2127. For more information on other UWIS programs, visit dnr.IN.gov/uwis or facebook.com/upperwabash.

Employers invited to register for Manchester Career Fair

Employers are invited to meet students at the Manchester University career, internship and graduate school fair from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 4, at the upper level of the Jo Young Switzer Center on the North Manchester campus. Setup begins at 11:30 p.m. with lunch and informal networking. Each employer registered will receive a covered 6-foot table and two chairs. The cost to register is \$40 to \$50, depending on the type of employer. Fair sponsorship is also available for \$150.

For more information and to register, visit <http://bit.ly/MUCareerFair2020>. Employers with questions may email CareerDevelopment@manchester.edu.

Manchester University Theatre Society offers variety show

The Manchester University Theatre Society is putting on the Spring 2020 Variety Show at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 5 in Cordier Auditorium. The show at the North Manchester campus is free

and open to the public.

'Death by Chocolate' tickets on sale

The Wabash Area Community Theater's winter comedy "Death by Chocolate" will open at 6 p.m. and dinner is at 6:30 p.m. Friday, March 6 and Saturday, March 7; and doors will open at noon and dinner is at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, March 8 at the Charley Creek Inn. Tickets are on sale now at the Charley Creek Inn reception desk. For more information, call Bruce Rovelstad at 260-330-0543 or Bev Vanderpool at 765-661-8206.

Salute to Ag Dinner to honor 2019 Farm Family of the Year

Grow Wabash County and the Salute to Ag committee have announced that Steve Flack and his family have been selected as the 2019 Farm Family of the Year. They will be recognized for their contributions to the Wabash County agriculture industry during Grow Wabash County's annual Salute to Ag Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 11 at the Heartland REMC, 350 Wedcor Ave. Tickets are \$20 each and sponsorship opportunities are available ranging from \$100 up to \$2,500. Registration may be completed by visiting growwabashcounty.com/events, by emailing info@growwabashcounty.com or calling 260-563-5258.

Komets game to celebrate Wabash County March 13

Wabash County will be the MVP during the third annual Wabash County Night at the Fort Wayne Komets game at 8:05 p.m. Friday, March 13 at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Ave., Fort Wayne. While supplies last, tickets can be bought for \$15 per ticket at <https://groupmatics.events/event/Wabashcommunity3> or by emailing Mitch Meinholz at mitch@komets.com or by

calling 260-482-6812.

Purdue Extension program set for Tuesday, March 17

Purdue Extension will offer Adult Mental Health First Aid training from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 17 at the Wabash REMC Community Room, 350 Wedcor Ave. The Mental Health First Aid program is open to any adult. For more information, visit www.extension.purdue.edu/mhfa or contact Mindy Mayes by email at mayes7@purdue.edu or by phone at 260-663-0661 ext. 1408.

St. Trolley's Day Tour on sale Feb. 14

Visit Wabash County has announced that tickets for the St. Trolley's Day Tour happening on March 14 will be available for purchase beginning at 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 14. Tour times offered are 6, 6:30 or 7 p.m. and will last about two hours. The St. Trolley's Day Tour is \$25 per person and all-inclusive. To register for this tour, visit www.VisitWabashCounty.com and click on Tours/Trolley Rental. You may also stop in the Welcome Center at 221 S. Miami St., or call 260-563-7171. Tickets are \$25 per person and is due upon registration. You must be 21 or older to participate in this tour.

Wabash Kiwanis Club's Pancake Day returns in March

The Wabash Kiwanis Club will once again host its annual Pancake Day, which is the local service organization's largest annual fundraiser. The event will take place from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 14 at the Bruce Ingraham building at the Wabash County Fairgrounds, located just off of Gillen Avenue. Tickets will be \$8 at the door and \$7 in advance for those ages 13 years and older, and \$5 at the door and \$4 in advance for children ages 6 to 12

years. Admission for the event will be free for children 5 years and younger.

NMCH to host Smithsonian traveling exhibit

The North Manchester Center for History will be hosting the Smithsonian's traveling exhibit, "Crossroads: Change in Rural America" from March 21 to May 3.

Manchester invites high school students to submit compositions

The Manchester University Department of Music seeks high school composers for its first Composition Workshop and Reading Session on Wednesday, April 8. They are invited to submit original compositions to be performed and recorded by Manchester University faculty musicians. The deadline is March 23. Send submissions to Reed at tmreed@manchester.edu. Submissions should include a score (PDF or Finale file); contact information with name, phone number and mailing address; and name of high school currently attending. There is no fee to submit. Selected composers will be contacted with details about the evening event via email.

Celebrate Ivy Tech in Wabash at Monopoly Night

Ivy Tech Community College is hosting its 11th annual Wabash Monopoly Night from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, April 24 in the Parkview Health Ballroom of Eagles Theatre, 106 W. Market St. This event is open to the community. Guests must RSVP by April 15 to Laura Leichty by email at leichty@ivytech.edu or by phone 260-481-2243.

Editor's note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplaindealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.

Visit us online
www.wabashplaindealer.com

Opinion

SPEAK UP

How to contact your legislators:

U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind.
B33 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
1-202-224-5623
http://young.senate.gov/contact

U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.
B85 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-4814
http://braun.senate.gov/

U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-District 2
419 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-3915

State Sen. Andy Zay, R-District 17
Indiana Senate
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9467
Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov

State Rep. David Wolkins, R-District 18
Indiana House
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9841
h18@in.gov

To email any Indiana lawmaker, go to this website:
www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl

LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 123 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 123 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplaindealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.

DAILY SCRIPTURE

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

1 John 4:10-11

Attorney General William Barr calls out President Trump

If ever a tweet served President Trump badly, it was his Monday night complaint about prosecutors' sentencing recommendation for Roger Stone. And kudos to Attorney General William Barr for publicly calling out the president on it.

Barr on Thursday took the extraordinary step of sitting down with ABC News' Pierre Thomas to clear the air on the Stone affair. He made it clear the president "has never asked me to do anything in a criminal case," but that Trump's tweets about the Justice Department "make it impossible for me to do my job."

The AG knows this could get him fired, but he will only do the job on his own terms. "I'm not going to be bullied or influenced by anybody ... Congress, a newspaper editorial board or the president," Barr said. "I'm gonna do what I think is right."

He did intervene in the Stone case – before Trump tweeted about it, and on the

basis of his own judgment.

While within Justice Department guidelines, the Stone sentencing recommendation on Monday was remarkably harsh – up to nine years in prison for a 67-year-old, when Stone's crimes, mainly misleading Congress in sworn testimony, would typically bring a few months for a first offense.

The on-hands prosecutors justified the far-tougher line because Stone allegedly intimidated another witness, his pal Randy Credico. But Credico says he didn't feel intimidated. And their direct supervisor had questioned their intent to go harsh – yet they went ahead anyway.

On learning of the recommendation Monday, Barr says he quickly ordered a change. When that happened on Tuesday, the prosecutors quit the case, and one resigned from the Justice Department.

Trump's tweet in the interim naturally had critics (Republican and Democrat) up in arms over what seemed outrageous

political interference in the course of justice.

In fact, Barr had to reconsider his course: "Do you go forward with what you think is the right decision or do you pull back because of the tweet? And that just sort of illustrates how disruptive these tweets can be," he told ABC.

We have complete trust in Barr's integrity. The left keeps trying to paint him as a Trump toady, but that's only because he's determined to reverse the Obama-era politicization of the Justice Department.

Yet the president's tweet totally fed his enemies' claims. Trump's core supporters might laugh it off, but the affair will sow doubt in the minds of Americans in the middle, whose votes Trump needs in November. And it could cost him a crucial Cabinet member.

Please, sir: Think before you tweet, and trust your people to do their jobs.

This editorial was first published in The New York Post.



Human reclamation through bricklaying

In the 1940s, Steve Shelton's grandfather dressed up – white shirt, tie, fedora – to take the streetcar to the steel mill where he would change into work clothes, and would shower before dressing up to return home. "There was," Shelton says, "such dignity in the trades back then."

There still is at the Trade Institute of Pittsburgh (TIP) that Shelton launched. There, in what used to be a Westinghouse Electric factory, some men, many in their 30s looking for their first legal jobs, and a few

George Will



women learn to wield trowels and mortar, thereby deriving from bricklaying (and welding, carpentry and painting) a dignity they did not feel when they grew up on this city's meanest streets, or when, for 85 percent of them, their incarcerations ended.

Shelton, 59, was 12 when he first was taken to a construction site. "I just wanted to build stuff," so after enjoying two things in high school (wood shop, metal shop), serving in the Navy and working in the trades, he started a business "out of the trunk of my car." Eventually, however, he wondered: "Where are all the young guys?" He saw: "Everyone was being pushed to college." He thought: "Having guys 55 or 60 years old on top of scaffolding, laying bricks, is not sustainable."

He knew there were guys like him "who want to work with their hands." Many were coming out of jail. Shelton talked with churches and civic organizations, and eventually the local Mellon (banking) and Heinz (ketchup, etc.) foundations. One thing led to another, and to this: The abandoned factory – deindustrialization has upsides – has a floor covered with bricks, cinder blocks, tubs of mortar and people trying to get the hang of building things, and get on the bottom rung of the ladder of upward mobility.

Things were made in the factory in the 1920s when Pittsburgh, then America's 9th most populous city (in 1920 it was just ahead of Los Angeles) made the nation's steel ligaments. In 2020, builders are made in the factory. Pittsburgh, now 66th in population, has put aside smokestacks and remade itself around technology and health care. It has, however, a construction boom – partly a result of Pennsylvania's fracking – and a shortage of workers for the building trades.

Shelton's \$1.4 million annual budget, from private and public sources, enables him and his staff "to take someone from nothing to a living wage in 10 weeks." Cameron Meadows, TIP's assistant masonry instructor, served 10 years for shooting someone in a bar fight, long before TIP changed his life. Shelton notes that when his human reclamation program prevents someone from spending 60 years in prison, costing Pennsylvania \$50,000 a year, "I've saved taxpayers 3 million bucks."

One in 38 American adults is incarcerated, on probation or on parole. Many former inmates return to communities where they had barely been connected to its constitutive units – families, schools and civic, religious and commercial institutions. Reintegration – acquiring residences, driver's licenses, bus passes, bank accounts, health care, child care, employment – can be bewildering, demoralizing and exhausting. Some of TIP's trainees are "couch surfing" – moving from one residence to another, night by night. All receive financial counseling. And there are driving lessons in the factory's parking lot.

But every morning at 8 a.m. – not 8:01, because, Shelton says, in construction time is money – the trainees sit in the "gratitude circle." There, each says something for which he or she is thankful. They all can mention this: 10 weeks – 340 hours – of free training. And a job on the horizon, sometimes a union job at \$22.58 an hour.

To a person from a fractured family, a job says: Someone objectively values you – enough to pay you to spend eight hours a day adding value to a project. To a person fresh from prison, a job says: You are a welcomed, functioning part of the society that decided it had to put you in a cage for a while. To a person whose education conferred only rudimentary skills, a job says: You have risen from among the unskilled to the rank of craftsman.

An expert bricklayer's virtuosity with a trowel and mortar – Shelton's is magical – as he or she manipulates bricks with motions so fluid that the bricks seem weightless, has the elegance that characterizes all craftsmanship. The recidivism rate among formerly incarcerated Pennsylvanians is around 43 percent. The rate among Shelton's former trainees is 9 percent.

It is an old saying that the devil fills idle hands. But not hands holding trowels.

George Will's email address is georgewill@washpost.com.

Stand athwart the exclamation point – and stop.

Despite what some might think, journalism is full of rules.

We have rules for sourcing, attribution, recording conversations and even rules about buying our own lunch. In writing, most of us defer to the AP Stylebook, an alphabetical catalog of how-tos: when and how to use titles, state abbreviations, numbers vs. numerals, quotations and the like.

Punctuation rules are what they've always been, with slight variations from age to era. The exclamation point has fallen in and out of favor for good reason. Children are suckers for them: "*I do not like green eggs and ham!*" Journalists are taught to use them sparingly, if at all. This is because the exclamation point signifies shouting, which obviously can be overdone, and quickly loses its oomph. The exclamation point can also suggest a sort of debutante breathlessness.

Oh, Scarlett! I just love that drapey-dress you stitched together!!

Why, how on earth did you ever conceive such a thing!!!!???

The South is still largely populated with the overly excited. On any given day, upon running into a friend or acquaintance, it is highly probable that I'll hear something like: "Heeeeyyyyy!!!! How ARE you???? Oh, my gosh, you look amaaaazing!!!! (Hugging is also very likely.) I don't mind this much, though if you're in a room full of such women, you'll need an exclamation deflector to soften the assault on your eardrums, not to mention your self-respect.

Writing is altogether different, of course, and no good writer, Southern or otherwise, would think of overusing exclamations. It just isn't done. To exclaim is to seem silly, shallow and self-absorbed, or, conversely, sarcastic, snarky or sneering. Usage is sometimes tricky, which is why: sparingly.

Something has shifted lately, however, and exclamation points suddenly are popping up everywhere! We may as well blame social media since most regrettable trends can be traced back to that which celebrates the silly, the shallow and the self-absorbed, not to mention sarcasm, snark and sneer. Did anyone in particular come thundering to mind?

Bingo! The exclamer-in-chief's Twitter feed is rife with exclamatory pronouncements. "Witch hunt!" "Enemy of the People!" "No collusion!" Of course this president would love exclamatory punctuation, connoting as it does loudness, boldness or, say, a booming voice before a cheering crowd. WINNING! The exclamation point, twin of the UPPERCASE, befits the narcissist who cloaks himself in a veil of superlatives.

It's exhausting – and, apparently, infectious. Without pride, I confess that I too have begun exclaiming over absolutely nothing for pure effect, mostly to "sound" happy. Admit it: You have, too. And it does seem connected to social media and, perhaps especially, to texting.

As everyone eventually learns, a text can be easily misunderstood. Sometimes this may be a function of a rushed thought carelessly conveyed without attention to tone or mutual context. You know the drill: The recipient of your text completely misinterprets your intent, feelings are hurt, contracts are ripped apart, dates are broken, hearts are rent asunder.

I love texting for the same reasons you do. It's quick and easy. To pick up the phone and call another human being requires, comparatively, a vast array of resources: a smiling voice, niceties, feigned interest in chitchat, and the expenditure of finite reserves of psychic energy. Thus, rather than speak person-to-person, we've begun resorting to the exclamation point to serve as our happy face ambassador.

Hi! immediately connotes friendliness and a smile, whereas Hi is a mere door-opener, as utilitarian and dour as the messenger who arrives to serve your divorce summons.

This faux friendliness surely portends an insidious trend of trading human communion for convenience and efficiency. Isn't this, after all, the purpose of all modern technology – and ain't it great? Between headphones and handheld computers capable of blocking even the periphery of others' lives, we spin our personal cocoons ever-more snugly. Heaven forbid we should make eye contact.

In such a world, insularity is our default mode and the exclamation point our fashionable foil. How long can we sustain this pas de deux of self-inflicted loneliness? Not forever, I suspect. The pendulum eventually reverses course and soon we'll be hankering for face-to-face time over Face-time, a conversation rather than a text, and mayhap a return to saner punctuation.

After all, to exclaim is human. But to end a sentence with a period is divine.

Kathleen Parker's email address is kathleenparker@washpost.com.

HISTORY

Today is Saturday, Feb. 15, the 46th day of 2020. There are 320 days left in the year.

Highlight in history:

On Feb. 15, 1898, the U.S. battleship Maine mysteriously blew up in Havana Harbor, killing more than 260 crew members and bringing the United States closer to war with Spain.

On this date:

In 1879, President Rutherford B. Hayes signed a bill allowing female attorneys to argue cases before the Supreme Court.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Claire Bloom is 89. Author Susan Brownmiller is 85. Songwriter Brian Holland is 79. Rock musician Mick Avory (The Kinks) is 76. Jazz musician Henry Threadgill is 76.

South Sudan ignores reports on oil pollution, birth defects

By SAM MEDNICK
Associated Press

PALOCH, South Sudan — The oil industry in South Sudan has left a landscape pocked with hundreds of open waste pits, the water and soil contaminated with toxic chemicals and heavy metals including mercury, manganese, and arsenic, according to four environmental reports obtained by The Associated Press.

The reports also contain accounts of “alarming” birth defects, miscarriages and other health problems among residents of the region and soldiers who have been stationed there. Residents also describe women unable to get pregnant.

Abui Mou Kueth’s infant son, Ping, was born with six fingers on both hands, one stunted leg, a deformed foot and kidney swelling.

“I was shocked the first time I saw the baby,” she said, cradling him in her arms.

She said he was not able to breastfeed and needed special formula. “I am worried about his future.”

The AP obtained the reports and supporting documents from people with close knowledge of the oil operations, one of whom works in the industry. The reports have never been released publicly.

The reports, which date as far back as 2013, were presented to the oil companies and South Sudan’s ministry of petroleum but subsequently buried, according to four people with close knowledge of the oil operations and the documents. All spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of their safety.

“South Sudan is running one of the dirtiest and poorest managed oil operations on the planet,” said Egbert Wesselink, the former head of a European coalition of more than 50 non-profit organizations focused on the impacts of the country’s oil

sector. He worked on the oil fields in South Sudan before the country gained independence in 2011, and now works with PAX, a Dutch-based human rights organization.

“I don’t think there’s a single major industrial operation on earth that’s getting away with this,” he said.

There’s been no clear link established between the pollution and the health problems.

But community leaders and lawmakers in the oil-rich areas in Upper Nile and Unity states – in the north-east and north of the country bordering Ethiopia and Sudan – accuse South Sudan’s government and the two main oil consortiums, the Chinese-led Dar Petroleum Operating Co. and the Greater Pioneer Operating Co., of neglecting the issue and trying to silence those who have tried to expose the problem.

An AP reporter looking into the pollution and health issues was detained and questioned by government officials and government security forces working on behalf of the oil companies.

Neither company responded to multiple requests for comment on the reports, and did not answer detailed questions sent by email and text message from the AP.

The reports show that the government and the oil companies have been aware for years that contamination from drilling could be causing severe health problems in the local population. But little has been done, local residents say, to clean up the mess. Promises by the government and the oil companies to tackle the pollution have repeatedly been broken, they say.

“People are dying of unknown diseases,” said Simon Ngor, a pastor with a church in Melut, a small village in the oil-rich area of Upper Nile state. “The oil company says they’re working on it but I don’t

think they actually are.”

The environmental and health problems are particularly damaging in South Sudan, a country that was only established nine years ago and shortly after was torn apart by civil war and famine. It’s among the poorest nations in the world and depends on its oil industry to survive.

Waste pits, birth defects

The oil-rich area around Paloch, a city in Upper Nile state, is dotted with exposed pools of toxic water. A chemical junkyard in Gumry town, about 45 minutes from Paloch, was strewn with overflowing containers of black sludge that seeped into the ground and were surrounded by toxic waste when an AP reporter visited in September 2018.

The air inside the yard, which was unsecured and easy to enter, smelled overwhelmingly of chemicals. Rows of stacked shipping containers lined the inner perimeter of the yard, some were left open exposing bags of what appeared to be chemicals.

Many containers had labels stipulating there were hazardous toxins inside. Trash was heaped in various corners of the plot.

The junkyard caught fire

in May and has yet to be cleaned up, according to a resident who visited in September and spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of their safety.

The AP interviewed more than two dozen people in Paloch and the surrounding areas, and residents reported alarming health problems that echoed those found in the buried reports: babies with birth defects, miscarriages and people dying of unexplained illnesses.

Dr. Bar Alony Wol, the county health department director, pulled out his phone in his small one-room office in Melut and pointed to a photo of a baby girl born in September 2018 with her intestines outside of her body. A few years ago, he said, he saw a baby born with no head.

“We’re losing children,” said Nyaweir Ayik Monyuak, chairman of the Women’s Association in Melut. The 43-year-old lost two children of her own between 2008 and 2011.

She and a dozen other women were crowded on a tattered L-shaped sofa in a dimly lit shed that serves as a meeting place in Melut. One by one, the women took turns telling their harrowing stories.

Six had lost babies in the last 10 years. And all of them knew someone who

had given birth to a child with deformities, had struggled to conceive or had miscarriages.

When some of the shy women were hesitant to speak up, the more vocal ones encouraged them to share their experiences.

Ajok Ayel said she lost a child in 2010 and hasn’t been able to get pregnant since.

“I’d like to leave if possible,” said Jessica Uma, 34, who said she had two miscarriages in 2012 and 2013 and used to get body rashes when showering.

When doctors removed Ngor Maluol’s dead daughter after she miscarried in 2018, the baby’s head was concave and looked as if she’d been hit, she said.

Many women can’t even get pregnant, Monyuak said.

Many of the residents said the health problems got worse after people started drinking water from white containers that began appearing several years ago in markets and along roadsides.

The same containers were strewn about the Dar Petroleum chemical junkyard, with labels saying they contained a chemical demulsifier called Phasetreat, used by the oil company during drilling to separate crude oil from water.

The containers, which were also mentioned in the 2013 report, had hazardous substance warning labels. The chemicals are supposed to be “taken to a suitable and authorized waste disposal site,” according to a spokesperson for Clariant, one of the world’s leading specialty chemical companies and provider of Phase-treat.

“Under no circumstances should these empty containers be used by people for any reason, in particular for holding drinking water,” said Rick Steiner, an oil pollution adviser in Alaska who consults for governments, aid groups and the United Nations on oil spills.

It is unclear how the empty containers were taken from Dar Petroleum’s secure compound. It took at least two years for the company to stop people from using them, local residents say.

“The oil company knew what was going on. There is no way the white containers could have left their yard without the staff in charge knowing. But they’ll never take responsibility for it,” said Ramadan Chan Liol, chairman of the Padang Community Union. The group represents people living around the oil areas in Unity and Upper Nile states and acts as a liaison with the oil company.

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Baby giraffe named 'Burreaux' after LSU quarterback

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Louisiana State University's Hesiman Trophy-winning quarterback Joe Burrow has a new honor to add to his long list of awards and achievements.

He inspired the name of the newest male giraffe at Louisiana's big capital city zoo.

A public naming competition selected the name Burreaux — a Cajun-inspired spelling of Burrow's last name — for the giraffe calf born Dec. 26.

The Baton Rouge Zoo announced the selection Friday, saying the public chose the winning name from three options: Romeo, Burreaux and Kiume, a Swahili word meaning masculine and strong.

Zoo staff took nominations for the names and narrowed them to the finalists. The public voted with donations, which the zoo said raised more than \$2,000 that will go to its conservation efforts.

Burrow is LSU's most decorated quarterback, leading the Tigers to a national championship victory earlier this year. He's widely expected to be the top player taken in the 2020 NFL draft.

Ravens' James Hurst suspended 4 games for 2020 season

OWINGS MILLS, Md. (AP) — Baltimore Ravens offensive lineman James Hurst has been suspended for the first four games of the 2020 season for violating the NFL policy on performance enhancers.

Hurst is eligible to participate in all preseason practices and games. He will be allowed to return to his team's active roster on the Monday following the team's fourth game.

Signed as a rookie free agent in 2014, Hurst played in all 16 regular-season games for the Ravens last season, with two starts at left tackle. He was part of an offensive line that paved the way for an NFL-record 3,296 yards rushing in 2019.

The 28-year-old Hurst signed a four-year contract in March 2018. He didn't miss a game over his first four seasons before being inactive for six games in 2018 with a back injury.

Submit your news

The *Plain Dealer* is accepting all news, varsity, junior varsity, middle school, elementary school and non-school affiliated recreational sports. To get a brief in the newspaper, please provide final score and any highlights pertaining to the event, including first and last names of participants. Reports must be received by 3 p.m. to make it in the following day's edition. Items may be:

■ Emailed to sports@wabashplaindealer.com.

■ Called into 260-225-4523 after 11 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Please do not leave complete results on voice mail.

■ Mailed into *Plain Dealer*, 123 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

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Jacob Rude / Plain Dealer

Wabash's Ethan Higgins (orange) grapples with Aidan Belt of Western (white) in the final of last week's regional.

County wrestlers vie for state finals berth

By JACOB RUDE
sports@wabashplaindealer.com

The Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne will house the annual semi-state wrestling meet with dozens upon dozens of wrestlers vying or a berth to the state finals. Among those participants will be a handful of representatives from Wabash County, highlighted by a pair of regional winners and a returning state qualifier from last season.

Ethan Higgins of Wabash and Dylan Stroud of Manchester enter as two of the top seeds at 120 and 126 pounds, respectively. Meanwhile, Wabash's Jared Brooks looks to break out of a slump and return to

the state finals after a sterling freshman campaign last year.

At 120 pounds, Higgins was ranked No. 3 in the semi-state by Indiana Mat in the final rankings of the regular season. The top four finishers in each division advance to the state finals with each wrestler needing two wins on the day to earn a spot at state. Higgins will meet Mikey Kallamani of Jimtown, who is 30-10 this season, in his opener before a potential match-up with either Jacob Veatch of Leo, ranked No. 7 in the semi-state, or Zakk Atkins of Jay County.

At 126 pounds, Stroud, ranked No. 5, will open his day with a match against Landon Roy of West Noble, who is 29-10 on the year. A

win would see him face the winner of Korbyn Reister of Churubusco, ranked No. 9, and Dominic Litchfield of Bellmont.

Brooks, who finished third at the regional, will have a much tougher task on the day at 113 pounds. While he's ranked No. 4 in the semi-state, Brooks will open against No. 8 Thomas Herman of Homestead before a potential meeting against No. 2 Aidan Sprague of East Noble and Karson Everett of Bellmont.

Also competing on the day for Wabash will be Anthony Long at 126 pounds against No. 8 Eric Garcia of Elkhart Central, Braden Brooks at 132 pounds against No. 4 Dillon Tuttle of Delta and

Traydon Goodwin at 152 pounds against No. 1 Cody McCune of Huntington North.

For Manchester, Elijah Burlingame will compete at 132 pounds against Tonner Johnson of Norwell, Trescott Duffy at 160 pounds against No. 7 Jacob Kreager of Snider, Ashton Moore at 195 pounds against RJ Dillbone of Fremont and Bryce Kamphues at 285 pounds against Luke Miller of Bishop Luers.

Logan Cox will also compete for Northfield at 195 pounds against No. 5 Jaden Miller of Northwood.

The meet will start at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday. Admission is \$12 for the whole day.

Indiana uses 3-point flurry to beat Iowa

By MICHAEL MAROT
Associated Press

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Devonte Green started fast Thursday night.

After making his first four 3-pointers, Green's teammates cranked up the pace, too. And it worked, for a change.

Green knocked down a season-high seven 3s, finished with 27 points and helped the Hoosiers break out of their offensive funk with an 89-77 victory over No. 21 Iowa.

"It's just a good feeling," said Green, who has come off the bench the last nine games. "When you see one and two and three and four

go in, you're like, 'I'm going to shoot it. I'm going to shoot it till I miss it. And then I'm going to shoot it again.' "

He didn't disappoint in a game the Hoosiers desperately needed to switch gears following four straight losses.

The timing was perfect, too. Green's older brother, Danny, came to town to watch since his Los Angeles Lakers were off. Several of Green's former college teammates — OG Anunoby, James Blackmon Jr. and Juwan Morgan — also were in the building.

And Green and Trayce Jackson-Davis, who had 17 points and 10 rebounds, put

on a show.

The Hoosiers (16-8, 6-7 Big Ten) made a season-high 11 3s — more than double their league-low average of 5.3 per game.

"When he hits one and two, you have to find a way to get him flares, just any of those ways," Jackson-Davis said of Green. "You've just got to get him the ball because he's hot. He can touch it. It can go in anytime he touches it."

Green wasn't the only one with a hot hand.

Luka Garza scored 38 points for Iowa, falling two short of matching the Assembly Hall single-game scoring record by an opponent. Joe Wieskamp added 16 for the Hawkeyes (17-8,

8-6), who have lost three of five following a five-game winning streak.

But Green started the decisive 12-0 first-half spurt by knocking down his third and fourth 3s before making free throws after drawing a foul on his next long-distance attempt. When the flurry ended, Indiana led 31-16 and Iowa spent the rest of the night futilely playing catch-up.

"He made seven," coach Fran McCaffery said. "You can't let a guy get seven but once you get him going, who knows?"

Aljami Durham's 3 closed out the first half and gave

See INDIANA, page B3

Humble? The Cubs? This should be interesting to see

By PAUL SULLIVAN
Chicago Tribune (TNS)

MESA, Ariz. — As the Cubs begin their quest to erase the bad vibes from last year's collapse, Anthony Rizzo informed the media there's a different feeling in the clubhouse.

"It's a new opportunity," Rizzo said. "It's going to be something that grows more and more, confidence-wise. We're a confident group, but we're also a humble group right now."

Humble? The Chicago Cubs? Theo Epstein's Cubs?

Humble is a word I wouldn't normally attach to the Cubs, one of the cockiest, most self-assured groups I've been around in more than three decades of covering baseball. The once-lovable losers changed

their stripes for good several years ago, and it wasn't just the players.

It all starts at the top, and whether it was the Rickettes' dealings with the city of Chicago during the Wrigley Field renovation plan, or business President Crane Kenney's attempt to impose a "Cubs tax" on all Cactus League ballparks to fund the team's spring training complex, or the constant calls from public relations employees to newspaper editors complaining about the coverage, this was one of the least humble organizations in professional sports.

Of course that attitude often worked to the Cubs' advantage. Former Mayor Rahm Emanuel bent over backward to allow the Cubs to add a video scoreboard and other revenue-enhancing amenities to Wrigley.

The Cubs got the city of Mesa to build Sloan Park and what's now called the Nike Performance Center, both huge successes.

And the players' overwhelming confidence in themselves was on full display during their championship run in 2016.

Rizzo, Jake Arrieta, Jon Lester, John Lackey and Javier Baez, among others, talked the talk and walked the walk, while manager Joe Maddon proved to be the perfect ring leader.

The Cubs retained that same brash attitude through 2018 — even after losing to the Dodgers in the 2017 National League Championship Series — only to blow a division lead in September, lose Game 163 to the Brewers and then succumb to the Rockies in the wild-card game.

"Sometimes you need to get your (bleep) knocked in the dirt to appreciate it," Lester said after the wild-card loss. "Maybe we needed that."

Maybe, but it didn't seem to change things in 2019, when they blew another golden opportunity down the stretch.

So did this Cubs core need a humbling after missing out on the playoffs?

"I already feel humble," catcher Willson Contreras said. "I'm not going to disagree with Rizzo. If he feels like that, that's good. But for me, I'm more realistic. I know we haven't made the playoffs in the last two years, but that doesn't mean we cannot make the playoffs this year."

"I'm already looking

See CUBS, page B3

Daytona 500 up for grabs as no clear theme has emerged

By JENNA FRYER
AP Auto Racing Writer

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — The first four events leading into the Daytona 500 have produced four different winners. Ricky Stenhouse Jr. put his new team on the pole, while Erik Jones outlasted a crash-fest to win a qualifying race. Joey Logano and William Byron won the qualifying races.

No clear favorite has emerged for "The Great American Race." No single manufacturer has a demonstrated edge going into NASCAR's version of the Super Bowl. It was a Toyota 1-2-3 sweep for Joe Gibbs Racing last year, in part because of mandated manufacturer alliances for drivers to work together, but there's so far been little indication the race will play out the same way Sunday.

Instead, this is a wide-open field of 40 drivers and all believe they have a shot at the life-changing victory and the record \$23.6 million that will be divvied by among the drivers. And why not? The unpredictability of Daytona allowed Justin Haley to gamble on rain strategy last July and shock the field with a win in his third and final start of the season.

Now Haley is back at Daytona for his debut in the Daytona 500, just one of a handful of drivers in a watered-down field that includes six Cup Series rookies, a 10-year veteran who had failed to qualify for the race in his only other previous attempt and a slew of others chasing the payout that can extend the season for any fledgling team.

Timmy Hill raced his way into Sunday's field in a qualifying race and said his Daytona 500 debut will keep tiny MBM Motorsports in business for the foreseeable future. More important? Hill thinks he's got a chance to be competitive Sunday.

"My car is very capable of running competitively in this race," Hill said. "I feel like we're not just here to participate, we're here to race."

But no one knows what that racing will look like when the flag drops on the 62nd running after President Donald Trump, named the grand marshal for the race, gives the command for drivers to start their engines. The exhibition Busch Clash was a demolition derby as drivers shook off the offseason rust and adjusted to NASCAR's new rules package.

The superspeedway rules implemented last season put a taller spoiler on the cars and made for unpredictable closing rates — and they were not used in the Daytona 500. Teams raced the package twice at Talladega, and in the July race at Daytona that was shortened 82 miles by rain. Moments before the sky opened, former Daytona 500 winner Austin Dillon wrecked the favorites with an aggressive move as the leader.

The Busch Clash last weekend was similar as Logano threw a block on reigning series champion Kyle Busch that caused a wreck that collected Logano teammate Brad Keselowski. Angry words were exchanged, cars destroyed and only six drivers were running at the

See DAYTONA, page B3

ON THE AIR

AUTO RACING 11a.m. FS1 — NASCAR Xfinity Series: Qualifying, Daytona Beach, Fla. 12:30 p.m. FS1 — NASCAR Cup Series: Final Practice, Daytona Beach, Fla. 2:30 p.m. FS1 — NASCAR Xfinity Series: The Racing Experience 300, Daytona Beach, Fla. 3:30 p.m. FS2 — FIA Formula E: Qualifying, Mexico City (taped) 4:30 p.m. FS2 — FIA Formula E: The Mexico City E-Prix, Mexico City 7 p.m. NBCSN — Monster Energy AMA Supercross: Round 7, Tampa, Fla. BOWLING 5:30 p.m. FS1 — PBA: The Players Championship, Columbus, Ohio COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S) 12 p.m. BTN — Northwestern at Penn State CBSSN — St. Joseph's at Rhode Island FOX — Purdue at Ohio State ESPN — Oklahoma at Kansas ESPN2 — Syracuse at Florida State ESPN — Tulsa at South Florida 12:30 p.m. NBCSN — Dayton at Massachusetts 1 p.m. CBS — Texas Tech at Oklahoma State SECN — Mississippi State at Arkansas 2 p.m. CBSSN — Bradley at Southern Illinois (Carbondale) ESPN — Mississippi at Kentucky ESPN2 — Texas at Iowa State ESPN — Old Dominion at North Texas 2:15 p.m. BTN — Wisconsin at Nebraska 2:30 p.m. FOX — Georgetown at Butler NBCSN — La Salle at St. Louis 3:30 p.m. SECN — Georgia at Texas A&M 4 p.m. ACCN — Louisville at Clemson CBSSN — Virginia Commonwealth at Richmond ESPN — Notre Dame at Duke ESPN2 — Louisiana State at Alabama 4:30 p.m. BTN — Illinois at Rutgers NBCSN — George Washington at George Mason 6 p.m. ACCN — Pittsburgh at Virginia Tech CBSSN — Nevada (Las Vegas) at New Mexico ESPN — Maryland at Michigan State ESPN2 — Auburn at Missouri ESPN — Houston at Southern Methodist SECN — Tennessee at South Carolina 8 p.m. CBSSN — Seton Hall at Providence ESPN — Virginia at North Carolina ESPN2 — Northern Iowa at Loyola Chicago PAC-12N — Washington State at Southern California SECN — Vanderbilt at Florida 10 p.m. ESPN2 — Washington at UCLA ESPN — Utah State at Fresno State FS1 — Colorado at Oregon State 10:30 p.m. PAC-12N — Arizona at Stanford 12 a.m. (Sunday) ESPN — California (Irvine) at Hawaii COLLEGE GYMNASTICS (WOMEN'S) 3 p.m. PAC-12N — Oregon State at Utah 5 p.m. PAC-12N — UCLA at Arizona State COLLEGE SOFTBALL 10:30 a.m. ESPN — The St. Pete Clearwater Elite Invitational: Oklahoma State vs. Alabama, Clearwater, Fla. 4 p.m. ESPN — The St. Pete Clearwater Elite Invitational: UCLA vs. Georgia, Clearwater, Fla. 8 p.m. ESPN — The St. Pete Clearwater Elite Invitational: Washington vs. South Carolina, Clearwater, Fla. GOLF 1 p.m. GOLF — PGA Tour: The Genesis Invitational, Third Round, Los Angeles 3 p.m. CBS — PGA Tour: The Genesis Invitational, Third Round, Los Angeles		GOLF — PGA Tour Champions: The Chubb Classic, Second Round, Lely Resort, Fla. 9 p.m. GOLF — LPGA Tour: The ISPS Handa Australian Open, Final Round, Seaton, Australia HORSE RACING 6 p.m. FS2 — America's Day at the Races LUGE 11 p.m. NBCSN — FIL: World Luge Championship (taped) NBA BASKETBALL 8 p.m. TNT — NBA All-Star Saturday Night: Skills Challenge, 3-Point Contest, Slam Dunk Contest, Chicago NHL HOCKEY 1 p.m. NHLN — Detroit at Boston 4 p.m. NHLN — Phila. at Tampa Bay 8 p.m. NBC — Stadium Series: Los Angeles vs. Colorado, Colorado Springs, Colo. SKIING 10 p.m. NBCSN — FIS Alpine World Cup: Women's Giant Slalom, Kranjska Gora, Slovenia (taped) 11 p.m. NBCSN — FIS World Cup: Slopestyle, Calgary, Alberta (taped) SNOWBOARDING 12 a.m. (Sunday) NBCSN — FIS World Cup: Halfpipe, Calgary, Alberta (taped) SOCCER (MEN'S) 9:20 a.m. FS2 — Bundesliga: Werder Bremen at RB Leipzig 12:20 p.m. FS2 — Bundesliga: Borussia Mönchengladbach at Fortuna Düsseldorf 12:30 p.m. NBC — Premier League: Liverpool at Norwich City 8 p.m. FS2 — Liga MX: Juárez at Monterrey TRACK AND FIELD 4 p.m. NBC — USATF: Indoor Championships, Albuquerque, N.M. TENNIS 1:30 p.m. TENNIS — ATP: Rotterdam-ATP Semifinal 2 4 p.m. TENNIS — ATP: New York-ATP Semifinal 1 7 p.m. TENNIS — ATP: New York-ATP Semifinal 2 5 a.m. (Sunday) TENNIS — WTA: Thailand-WTA, Singles Final XFL FOOTBALL 2 p.m. ABC — New York at D.C. 5 p.m. FOX — Tampa Bay at Seattle Sunday, Feb. 16 AUTO RACING 2:30 p.m. FOX — NASCAR Monster Energy Cup: The Daytona 500, Daytona Beach, Fla. BIATHLON 12:30 a.m. (Monday) NBCSN — IBU World Cup: Men's 12.5km Pursuit, Antholz-Anterselva, Italy (taped) BOBSLEDDING/SKELETON 1:30 a.m. (Monday) NBCSN — IBSF World Cup: Two-Man Bobsled, From Sigulda, Latvia (taped) COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S) 12 p.m. CBSSN — Cincinnati at East Carolina 1 p.m. CBS — Indiana at Michigan ESPN — Villanova at Temple FS1 — Iowa at Minnesota 2 p.m. CBSSN — Tulane at Wichita State NBCSN — Duquesne at Fordham 3 p.m. ESPN — Memphis at Connecticut 4 p.m. CBSSN — San Diego State at Boise State ESPN — Missouri State at Indiana State 6 p.m. ACCN — North Carolina State at Boston College ESPN — Arizona State at California 9 p.m. FS1 — Utah at Oregon COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S) 12 p.m.		BTN — Michigan at Rutgers ESPN — Virginia Commonwealth at Dayton 1 p.m. ACCN — Miami at Clemson ESPN2 — Florida State at Duke SECN — Alabama at Georgia 2 p.m. PAC-12N — Stanford at Colorado 3 p.m. ACCN — Notre Dame at Louisville ESPN2 — Texas A&M at Tennessee FS1 — Kansas State at Oklahoma SECN — Arkansas at Mississippi 4 p.m. PAC-12N — Oregon at Southern California 5 p.m. ESPN2 — Mississippi State at Kentucky SECN — Louisiana State at Auburn COLLEGE GYMNASTICS (WOMEN'S) 6 p.m. PAC-12N — California at Stanford 7:30 p.m. BTN — Nebraska at Minnesota COLLEGE SOFTBALL 10 a.m. ESPN — The St. Pete Clearwater Elite Invitational: Texas Tech vs. Washington, Clearwater, Fla. 7 p.m. ESPN — The St. Pete Clearwater Elite Invitational: UCLA vs. Florida State, Clearwater, Fla. COLLEGE TENNIS 6 p.m. TENNIS — Southern California vs. Notre Dame, Orlando, Fla. COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL (WOMEN'S) 8 p.m. PAC-12N — Southern California at UCLA GOLF 1 p.m. GOLF — PGA Tour: The Genesis Invitational, Final Round, Los Angeles 3 p.m. CBS — PGA Tour: The Genesis Invitational, Final Round, Los Angeles GOLF — PGA Tour Champions: The Chubb Classic, Final Round, Lely Resort, Fla. LUGE 10:30 p.m. NBCSN — FIL: World Championships, Sochi, Russia (taped) NBA BASKETBALL 8 p.m. TBS — NBA All-Star Game: Team Giannis vs. Team LeBron, Chicago TNT — NBA All-Star Game: Team Giannis vs. Team LeBron, Chicago NHL HOCKEY 12:30 p.m. NBC — Detroit at Pittsburgh 3:30 p.m. NBC — Boston at NY Rangers 6 p.m. NBCSN — St. Louis at Nashville SKIING 9:30 p.m. NBCSN — FIS World Cup: Women's Slalom, Kranjska Gora, Slovenia (taped) SOCCER (MEN'S) 8:55 a.m. ESPN2 — Serie A: Brescia at Juventus NBCSN — Premier League: Tottenham at Aston Villa 9:20 p.m. FS2 — Bundesliga: Bayern Munich at Köln 11:30 a.m. NBCSN — Premier League: Newcastle United at Arsenal 11:50 a.m. FS2 — Bundesliga: Schalke at FSV Mainz 7:30 p.m. FS2 — Liga MX: Tigres UANL at Santos Laguna TENNIS 5 a.m. TENNIS — WTA: Thailand-WTA, Singles Final 6 a.m. TENNIS — WTA: Thailand-WTA, Singles Final 8:30 a.m. TENNIS — ATP/WTA: Rotterdam-ATP, St. Petersburg-WTA Finals 4 p.m. TENNIS — ATP: New York-ATP Final 5 a.m. (Monday) TENNIS — WTA: Dubai-WTA, Early Rounds 6 a.m. (Monday) TENNIS — WTA: Dubai-WTA, Early Rounds XFL FOOTBALL 3 p.m. ABC — Dallas at Los Angeles 6 p.m. FS1 — St. Louis at Houston	
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SCOREBOARD

COLLEGE BASKETBALL					Thursday's Men's Result					Friday's Game				
Standings through Thursday games					INDIANA 89, NO. 21 IOWA 77					2020 Rising Stars Challenge				
ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE					IOWA (17-8)					Team USA vs Team World, Chicago				
Conference All Games					Garza 14-22 7-8 38, Fredrick 0-1 0-0 0, C.McCaffery 0-4 4-4 4, Toussaint 1-3 1-1 3, Wieskamp 5-11 5-8 16, Evelyn 3-5 3-4 9, Kriener 3-4 0-0 6, Till 0-1 0-0 0, Ash 0-1 1-2 1. Totals 26-52 21-27 77.					Saturday's Games				
W L Pct W L Pct					INDIANA (16-8)					No games scheduled				
Louisville 12 2 .857 21 4 .840					Brunk 1-3 1-2 3, Jackson-Davis 6-12 5-6 17, Smith 1-5 4-6 6, Durham 2-6 1-2 6, Phinisee 4-9 2-2 12, Green 7-15 6-7 27, Thompson 4-6 2-5 10, Davis 2-3 1-2 5, Hunter 1-2 0-0 3, Franklin 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 28-61 22-32 89.					Sunday's Game				
Duke 11 2 .846 21 3 .875					Halftime—Indiana 49-34. 3-Point Goals—Iowa 4-14 (Garza 3-6, Wieskamp 1-3, Ash 0-1, Evelyn 0-1, Fredrick 0-1, C.McCaffery 0-2), Indiana 11-21 (Green 7-11, Phinisee 2-3, Hunter 1-2, Durham 1-5). Rebounds—Iowa 26 (Garza 8), Indiana 36 (Jackson-Davis 10). Assists—Iowa 9 (Toussaint 5), Indiana 16 (Phinisee 5). Total Fouls—Iowa 21, Indiana 20. A—17,222 (17,222).					2020 All-Star Game				
Florida St. 10 3 .769 20 4 .833										Team Giannis vs Team LeBron, 8 p.m., Chicago				
Virginia 8 5 .615 16 7 .696										NHL				
NC State 7 6 .538 16 8 .667										EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Syracuse 7 6 .538 14 10 .583										Atlantic Division				
Notre Dame 6 7 .462 15 9 .625										GF W L OT Pts GF GA				
Pittsburgh 6 8 .429 15 10 .600										Boston 58 35 11 12 82 192 144				
Clemson 6 8 .429 12 12 .500										Tampa Bay 58 38 15 5 81 206 153				
Boston College 6 8 .429 12 13 .480										Toronto 58 30 20 8 68 205 192				
Georgia Tech 6 8 .429 12 13 .480										Florida 57 30 21 6 66 200 194				
Virginia Tech 5 8 .385 14 10 .583										Montreal 59 27 25 7 61 180 180				
Miami 4 10 .286 12 12 .500										Buffalo 58 26 24 8 60 166 81				
Wake Forest 4 10 .286 11 13 .458										Ottawa 57 19 27 11 49 150 193				
North Carolina 3 10 .231 10 14 .417										Detroit 59 14 41 4 32 121 220				
Saturday's Games										Metropolitan Division				
Syracuse at Florida St., Noon										GF W L OT Pts GF GA				
Wake Forest at Miami, 2 p.m.										Washington 57 37 15 5 79 205 174				
Louisville at Clemson, 4 p.m.										Pittsburgh 55 34 16 5 64 182 150				
Notre Dame at Duke, 4 p.m.										N.Y. Islanders 56 33 17 6 72 166 156				
Pittsburgh at Virginia Tech, 6 p.m.										Columbus 58 30 17 11 71 151 143				
Virginia at North Carolina, 8 p.m.										Philadelphia 58 32 19 7 71 190 172				
Sunday's Games										Carolina 56 32 21 3 67 181 157				
NC State at Boston College, 6 p.m.										N.Y. Rangers 56 29 23 4 62 185 177				
										New Jersey 56 21 25 10 52 156 196				
BIG EAST CONFERENCE										WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Conference All Games										Central Division				
W L Pct W L Pct										GF W L OT Pts GF GA				
Seton Hall 10 2 .833 18 6 .750										St. Louis 57 32 15 10 74 183 168				
Creighton 8 4 .667 19 6 .760										Colorado 56 33 17 6 72 202 157				
Villanova 8 4 .667 18 6 .750										Dallas 57 33 19 5 71 154 144				
Butler 7 5 .583 19 6 .760										Winnipeg 58 29 24 5 63 174 176				
Marquette 7 5 .583 17 7 .708										Nashville 56 27 22 7 61 183 183				
Providence 6 6 .500 13 12 .520										Minnesota 57 27 23 8 61 176 183				
Xavier 5 7 .417 16 9 .640										Chicago 57 25 24 8 58 166 181				
Georgetown 4 7 .364 14 10 .583										Pacific Division				
St. John's 3 9 .250 14 11 .560										GF W L OT Pts GF GA				
DePaul 1 10 .091 13 11 .542										Vancouver 58 32 21 5 69 190 175				
Saturday's Games										Edmonton 57 30 21 6 66 182 179				
Georgetown at Butler, 2:30 p.m.										Vegas 59 29 22 6 66 188 183				
DePaul at Creighton, 7:30 p.m.										Calgary 59 30 23 6 66 170 178				
Seton Hall at Providence, 8 p.m.										Arizona 60 28 24 8 64 167 165				
Sunday's Game										Anaheim 57 23 27 7 53 146 179				
Villanova at Temple, 1 p.m.										San Jose 56 24 28 4 52 147 187				
										Los Angeles 58 20 33 5 45 142 186				
BIG TEN CONFERENCE										NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.				
Conference All Games										Thursday's Games				
W L Pct W L Pct										Dallas 3, Toronto 2				
Maryland 10 3 .769 20 4 .833										New Jersey 4, Detroit 1				
Penn St. 9 4 .692 19 5 .792										Philadelphia 6, Florida 2				
Michigan St. 9 5 .643 17 8 .680										Tampa Bay 3, Edmonton 1				
Illinois 8 5 .615 16 8 .667										Buffalo 4, Columbus 3, OT				
Iowa 8 6 .571 17 8 .680										Ottawa 3, Arizona 2				
Rutgers 8 6 .571 17 8 .680										Nashville 5, N.Y. Islanders 0				
Wisconsin 7 6 .538 14 10 .583										N.Y. Rangers 4, Minnesota 3, SO				
Purdue 7 7 .500 14 11 .560										Washington 3, Colorado 2				
Indiana 6 7 .462 16 8 .667										Calgary 6, Anaheim 0				
Ohio St. 6 7 .462 16 8 .667										Vegas 6, St. Louis 5, OT				
Michigan 6 7 .462 15 9 .625										Friday's Games				
Minnesota 6 7 .462 12 11 .522										Montreal at Pittsburgh				
Nebraska 2 11 .154 7 17 .292										N.Y. Rangers at Columbus				
Northwestern 1 12 .077 6 17 .261										San Jose at Winnipeg				
Thursday's Game										New Jersey at Carolina				
Indiana 89, Iowa 77										Saturday's Games				
Saturday's Games										Detroit at Boston, 1 p.m.				
Purdue at Ohio St., Noon										Nashville at St. Louis, 3 p.m.				
Northwestern at Penn St., Noon										Edmonton at Florida, 4 p.m.				
Wisconsin at Nebraska, 2:15 p.m.										Philadelphia at Tampa Bay, 4 p.m.				
Illinois at Rutgers, 4:30 p.m.										San Jose at Minnesota, 5 p.m.				
Maryland at Michigan St., 6 p.m.										Dallas at Montreal, 7 p.m.				
Sunday's Games										Toronto at Ottawa, 7 p.m.				
Indiana at Michigan, 1 p.m.										Los Angeles vs. Colorado at Falcon Stadium, 8 p.m.				
Iowa at Minnesota, 1 p.m.										Chicago at Calgary, 10 p.m.				
										Washington at Arizona, 10 p.m.				
HORIZON LEAGUE										N.Y. Islanders at Vegas, 10:30 p.m.				
Conference All Games														
W L Pct W L Pct														
Wright St. 11 2 .846 21 5 .808														
N. Kentucky 10 3 .769 18 7 .720														
Youngstown St. 8 5 .615 15 11 .577														

No ‘Plan B’ for Tokyo Olympics; questions over Chinese presence

By STEPHEN WADE and MARI YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press

TOKYO — Tokyo Olympic organizers and the International Olympic Committee said Friday there is no “Plan B” for the 2020 Games, which open in just over five months and have been jolted by the outbreak of a virus in neighboring China.

The coronavirus has infected almost 64,000 people globally with almost 1,400 deaths in China, but only one in Japan where fear is rising with so much attention focused on the outbreak.

“Certainly the advice we’re received externally from the WHO (World Health Organization) is that there’s no case for any contingency plans or cancelling the games,” John Coates, the head of an IOC inspection team, said to wrap up a two-day visit that was dominated by the virus issue.

Coates and Tokyo Olympic organizers took 11 questions at a news conference on Friday. All 11 were about the virus, or the presence of Chinese athletes in 19 remaining test events in Japan, or about Chinese fans, or repeated questions seeking reassurance the games will go ahead as planned.

A Japanese reporter asked Tokyo organizing committee President Yoshiro Mori if, given the fact the games are going ahead, would there be any “organizational changes” in how the games are run.

“No, at this stage, no. We are not thinking of any such possibility,” said Mori, a former Japanese prime minister, speaking in Japanese.

Mori, Coates and CEO Toshiro Muto looked glum sitting at a head table taking essentially the same question over and over.

“We can confirm that Tokyo 2020 remains on track,” Coates said in his opening statement.

Coates was asked by a CNN reporter if he was 100 percent confident that the Tokyo Olympics would go on as scheduled and open on July 24.

“Yes,” he replied.

Coates talked positively about keeping a close watch on Chinese athletes, and talked optimistically about their eventual presence in Tokyo, where they would probably field a team of 600 athletes – one of the largest delegations.

“We continue also to monitor, particularly the

Chinese that will be coming here,” Coates said. “You’ll find that the Chinese teams are mostly out of China. That’s the athletes and officials.”

He didn’t offer any specific numbers.

Others away from the Olympic circle are uncertain what course the virus outbreak will take.

“Frankly speaking, there is no guarantee that the outbreak will come to an end before the Olympics because we have no scientific basis to be able to say that,” Shigeru Omi, a former regional director of the WHO and an infectious disease expert from Japan, said Thursday.

“So it is meaningless to predict a timing when it may come to an end,” he added. “We should assume that the virus has already been spreading in Japan. People should understand that we cannot only rely on border controls to prevent the spread of the disease.”

Mark Woolhouse, a professor of infectious disease epidemiology at the University of Edinburgh, told The Associated Press in an email: “I don’t think anyone right now can confidently predict the state of affairs come late summer.”

“One slight word of caution,” he added. “Influenza is regarded as a winter infection in the northern hemisphere. But when we encountered a new strain in 2009-10 – pandemic strain, or swine flu – we did see cases in the summer months.”

That is not particularly good news, where many talk of the hot, humid Tokyo summer taking its toll on the virus.

The AP requested but was declined an interview with Dr. Richard Budgett, the IOC’s medical and scientific director who was in Tokyo for the meetings.

The dynamic growth of the Olympics makes any schedule change difficult.

About 73 percent of the IOC’s \$5.7 billion revenue in a four-year Olympic cycle comes from broadcasting rights from networks like NBC and NHK in Japan. Moving the Olympics back even two months would clash in North America with a full plate of sports broadcasts: NFL, NBA, baseball, and college football.

There is also the matter of millions of tickets sold, flights and hotels booked, and \$3 billion in local sponsorship sold in Japan with advertisers expecting some results for their expenditure.

MLB makes 2nd \$1M donation to Negro Leagues Museum

By DAVID SMALE
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Major League Baseball celebrated the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Negro National League by joining with the Major League Baseball Players Association to announce their second joint \$1 million donation to the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, “It commemorates baseball history, and it’s a tribute to African-American entrepreneurship in the culture that existed at the time,” baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said Thursday.

was founded by eight entrepreneurs at the Paseo YMCA in the eastern part of Kansas City.

Part of the donation will be used to help renovate the YMCA building that will house the Buck O’Neil Education and Research Center. The museum had spent more than \$100,000 on the renovation when the building was damaged in 2018.

“Unfortunately, someone vandalized the building, derailing a lot of work that had gone on in this building,” said Bob Kendrick, the museum’s executive director. “It was important for us to come back into this space. We didn’t want the haters to have the last laugh.”

Negro Leagues operated from 1920 through 1951, four years after Jackie Robinson broke the MLB color barrier.

The privately financed museum was founded in 1990 and moved into its current facility in 1994. The Negro National League, the first Negro major league,

Ex-coach states she has ‘No recollection’ of discussion about Nassar abuse

By **DAVID EGGERT**
Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. — A former Michigan State University gymnastics coach testified Friday that she had “no recollection” of a conversation in which two teen athletes allegedly told her of sexual abuse by sports doctor Larry Nassar in 1997, nearly 20 years before he was charged.

Kathie Klages, 65, is accused of lying to police in 2018. She testified that she was “shocked” when she first learned years later that one of the teens said she had previously told Klages about Nassar.

“I have no recollection of the conversation,” Klages testified.

Klages was the last witness

to testify in her trial. Jurors began deliberating Friday afternoon.

She faces up to four years in prison. She is the second person other than Nassar to go to trial on charges related to his serial molestation of young women and girls under the guise of medical treatment. Klages resigned in 2017 after she was suspended for defending the since-imprisoned Nassar.

In closing statements, the prosecution said Klages lied in 2018 when she told investigators that the two young athletes, who were in a campus gymnastics program but not Michigan State gymnasts, had not reported Nassar’s sexual misconduct to her.

“It’s not believable that the defendant forgot about be-

ing told ... what happened to them,” said Assistant Attorney General Bill Rolstin.

Larissa Boyce testified that when she was 16 and training with the Spartan youth gymnastics team in 1997, she told Klages about Nassar – long before the scandal emerged in 2016. But she said she backed off and even apologized after Klages warned her that any complaints about Nassar could cause trouble.

Defense attorney Mary Chartier urged jurors to not “rely on the word of two teenage girls from 23 years ago” and noted that Klages sent her children and a granddaughter to be treated by Nassar for years after she was allegedly told of his abuse.

Nassar worked at Michigan State and USA Gymnastics,

which trains Olympians. He is serving what are effectively life sentences for child porn possession and sexually assaulting young women and girls. More than 300 victims have said he molested them during treatment for back problems and other injuries.

In August, Nassar’s former supervisor at Michigan State, ex-College of Osteopathic Medicine Dean William Stampel, was sentenced to jail for crimes including neglecting a duty to enforce protocols on Nassar after a patient complained about sexual contact in 2014. Former Michigan State President Lou Anna Simon has been ordered to trial on charges of lying to police, but it is unclear when the trial may begin.

Jennifer Hudson set for Kobe tribute at All-Star Game

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP Basketball Writer

CHICAGO — Jennifer Hudson is coming to the All-Star Game to pay tribute to Kobe Bryant with her voice.

The NBA has released a list of entertainers headed to All-Star weekend, the group headlined by Hudson – the two-time Grammy winner and Oscar winner – who, just before Sunday night’s player introductions, will perform a special tribute to Bryant, his daughter Gianna and the seven other victims of the helicopter crash that took their lives in Southern California on Jan. 26.

Other additions the NBA revealed Thursday: DJ Khaled, Quavo and Lil Wayne will join the previously announced Grammy winner and Chicago native Chance the Rapper during Sunday night’s halftime show; Queen Latifah will be joined by Chicago youth to perform Stevie Wonder’s “Love’s in Need of Love Today” during Saturday’s events; and the Chicago Children’s Choir sing “The Star-Spangled Banner” before the Rising Stars game on Friday night.

And Damian Lillard still may perform – even though injury will keep him from playing this weekend.

The Portland guard was to play in Sunday’s All-Star Game and participate in All-Star Saturday Night events as a competitor in the 3-point contest. But he injured his groin in the Trail Blazers’ final game before the break on Wednesday night, and that will keep him off the court.

Lillard, however, is going to be in Chicago and hasn’t ruled out taking the stage on Saturday night.

The five-time All-Star is a popular rapper – he raps under the name Dame D.O.L.L.A. – and the NBA is hoping he performs.

His plan, if he can take the stage, is to be joined by

Jeremih and Lil Wayne.

“We just kind of started going over what we could do to make it count, tried to figure out Chicago artists who could be part of it,” Lillard said. “Jeremih is going to be on stage with me and he’s from Chicago, he’s on one of my biggest songs on my current album. And then also, I’m going to be doing a song on my previous album and that’s one of my biggest songs with Lil Wayne, too, so it’s going to be a pretty good deal.”

Lillard’s rise in music did not come easily. Even though he had fame through being an All-Star player, he still had to pay his dues as a performer. He worked his way up through Instagram and Soundcloud, building a fan base and building respect within the rap community. And now he has three albums to his credit, plus enough credibility that big names want to work with him.

“I think the No. 1 thing that people see is the route that I’ve taken in my music,” Lillard said. “I didn’t just jump in and say ‘listen to my music because I’m an NBA player.’ I took the route that any other aspiring artist would take, and I think that shows that I took it seriously, that I have real passion for the music and for hip-hop.”

Several other All-Star weekend performers were previously announced: three-time Grammy winner and Chicago native Common, Chance’s brother Taylor Bennett, Chaka Khan (who will sing the U.S. national anthem Sunday before the All-Star Game) and country star Tenille Arts (who will sing the Canadian national anthem).

Common’s role will be to welcome fans to Chicago with a narrative about what basketball means to the city, that part to come before the teams are introduced Sunday.

Jordan, Wilkins reflect on memorable ‘88 dunk contest battle

By **TIM REYNOLDS** and **STEVE REED**
AP Sports Writers

CHICAGO — Michael Jordan and Dominique Wilkins have never talked to one another about the 1988 dunk contest.

They might be the only ones.

It is still the dunk contest by which all other dunk contests are measured: Two stars, at the peak of their powers, the players who finished first and second in that season’s scoring standings, going head-to-head to decide a winner. Jordan left the old Chicago Stadium that night with the trophy. To this day, many believe Wilkins was the rightful winner. Either way, it was a never-to-be-forgotten show – and now, for the first time since that night 32 years ago, the dunk contest is returning to Chicago on Saturday night.

“I did have a homecourt advantage, yes,” Jordan said this week in an interview with The Associated Press.

“The fans got their money’s worth,” Wilkins said in a separate interview with AP.

This season’s dunk contest entrant – Orlando’s Aaron Gordon, Miami’s Derrick Jones Jr., the Los Angeles Lakers’ Dwight Howard and Milwaukee’s Pat Connaughton – will have quite a show to follow if what they do on Saturday is going to stand the test of time that the Jordan-Wilkins contest has.

To this day, Wilkins believes he should have won.

And to this day, he still tips his cap to what Jordan did that

night.

“We were foes and we had some great battles, but he understood the moment,” Wilkins said. “He understood what we did, you know? So, for us, there’s no hard feelings. There’s no animosity. We love the fact that they still talk about it because we knew what we brought.”

None of this year’s four dunk contest participants are All-Stars. It was different 32 years ago, when the dunk contest was being held for only the fourth time. Jordan was the MVP in 1988, Wilkins was sixth in that season’s MVP voting, and they were the only players that season who averaged more than 30 points per game.

“It’s a little bit different today. And it’s probably much harder today because how many times can you do the same dunks over and over again?” Jordan said. “So, they are trying to create things that people haven’t seen and that means jumping over people and cars and stuff like that. We didn’t have to do that because we didn’t have anything preceding us.”

The 1988 field was stacked. Wilkins had won in 1985. Spud Webb won in 1986. Jordan won in 1987. They were all in the field, along with Greg Anderson, Clyde Drexler, Jerome Kersey and Otis Smith.

“My memories more so than anything was that I was representing Chicago,” Jordan said. “I just wanted to represent them well. I

wanted to win, don’t get me wrong. But I also knew Dominique was an unbelievable dunker and very athletic and a human highlight film. So, I had to come up with certain things that are very special and unique.”

Of course, it came down to Wilkins vs. Jordan. Three dunks each to decide the title. Both got a perfect score – 50 – on their first dunk in the final round. Wilkins got another 50 in the second round, with Jordan getting only a 47. That meant Wilkins, who was first to dunk in each round of the finals, needed only a 48 to clinch the win over Jordan.

Wilkins went with a two-handed windmill for his final dunk. The judges’ score: 45. Drexler looked on in disbelief.

“I was surprised at his score,” Jordan said.

The door was open for Jordan. He tried a dunk from the foul line and missed, but the rules allowed two chances per attempt. The second effort is the one replayed about a billion times since: He took off from just inside the foul line, pulled the ball back a bit before finishing off the slam, and got the perfect score of 50.

Final score: Jordan 147, Wilkins 145.

“The dunk contest, Nique got robbed,” said Doc Rivers, the Los Angeles Clippers coach who that year was an All-Star representing Atlanta – Wilkins’ team as well – in his hometown of Chicago. “But other than that, it was a perfect weekend.”

The dunk contest has had its

ups and downs since.

It went away for a couple of years. Fred Jones, a journeyman who played for five teams in seven seasons, was the 2004 champion. Jeremy Evans – he averaged 3.5 points per game in his career – won in 2012. The NBA tried a team concept with three guys representing each conference in 2014; it wasn’t well received. Only the most ardent fan probably remembers that last year’s winner was Hamidou Diallo.

There have been some stars: Kobe Bryant won in 1997 and Vince Carter prevailed in 2000, a win that still draws raves from Jordan.

The highest compliment, in fact.

“The most amazing dunk I have ever seen is probably Vince Carter when he hung his elbow in the rim,” Jordan said. “To me that was, without question, just unbelievable.”

But most of the biggest names – and many considered among the best dunkers of their generation – have taken a pass on the dunk contest. LeBron James has never entered one, nor has Russell Westbrook, and Dwyane Wade didn’t either.

“I’d have loved to have seen LeBron,” Wilkins said.

Jordan agreed, saying he knows fans are clamoring to have seen James try it at least once.

“What we did in the game and excitement that we created when we did dunk,” Jordan said. “People wanted to see that. Is it the same today? Maybe not.”

INDIANA

From page B1

the Hoosiers a 49-34 lead, and Indiana scored the first five points of the second half to take a 19-point lead.

Iowa didn’t get closer than 10 again.

BIG PICTURE

Iowa: Defense has been the Hawkeyes’ biggest flaw all season, and it bit them hard again Thursday night. But Iowa had plenty of other woes in this one – committing 19 turnovers, making only 4 of 14 from 3-point range and not giving Garza much help. The good news is they’ve completed their trips to Indiana and Purdue, both losses. The bad news: They must return to the Hoosier State

next month for the Big Ten Tournament.

Indiana: Scoring has been a struggle lately for the Hoosiers, but on Thursday, they found a solution by playing at a faster pace, moving the ball and taking advantage of their athleticism. The next challenge is demonstrating they can keep playing this way, build confidence and start stacking wins.

STAT PACK

Iowa: In two trips to the state of Indiana this season, the Hawkeyes allowed 110 total points in the first halves. ... Garza had 21 of the Hawkeyes 34 points in the first half; nobody else had more than six. ... Bakari Evelyn finished with nine points. ... Iowa has lost three straight road games.

Indiana: Green made five 3s and had 18 points in the first half. ... Rob Phinisee wound up with 12 points, five assists and three steals while Race Thompson added a career high 10 points and four steals. ... The 49 first-half points were the most scored by Indiana in any half since a 52-point first half against Louisiana Tech on Nov. 25. ... The Hoosiers had a 39-28 rebounding advantage.

SCARY SCENE

Iowa guard CJ Fredrick left the game with 5:24 to go in the first half when he crashed to the floor. He stayed down for several minutes before two trainers helped him hop off the floor, unable to put any weight his right leg.

Following the game, McCaffery said the initial di-

agnosis was a sprained ankle.

“I think it’s too early to tell,” McCaffery said when asked about Fredrick’s status for the Hawkeyes’ next game. “It wasn’t a good one.”

HE SAID IT

Indiana coach Archie Miller on Green: “I was just talking to his brother, Danny, in the locker room, to see if he could skip the regular season for the Lakers and see if he could hang around here a little bit. He said he couldn’t. Maybe we can Facetime him every day, I don’t know.”

UP NEXT

Iowa: Makes its next stop at Minnesota on Saturday.

Indiana: Begins two-game road trip at Michigan on Sunday.

CUBS

From page B1

forward to winning as many games as we can this season, and hopefully we make it to the playoffs.”

Contreras can be forgiven for forgetting that cameo playoff appearance in 2018, which ended with the same empty feeling as not making it at all.

Certainly Maddon’s brash personality bled over into the clubhouse the last five years, so a change in attitude was inevitable. New manager David Ross is a bit more self-effacing, perhaps because of spending his career as a backup catcher, and knows the more success you have, the easier it is to lose sight of what’s most important.

“Sometimes success can bring a lack of things; the focus can get awry at times,” Ross said. “We tend to focus on some other details as our careers evolve. A lot of these guys have gone through a path of success. Still a lot of good talent and good numbers getting put up there, but the attention to detail and the winning ways I find important are what I’m going to hammer home.”

Nothing humbles a player like being demoted to the minors after a prolonged period in the majors. Albert Almora Jr., Ian Happ and David Bote were sent down to Triple-A Iowa last year, and all will be fighting to regain their status as major contributors in 2020.

Asked what he took out of his 2019 season, Almora said: “I don’t think it was a positive one. Obviously as a team we didn’t win. We didn’t get to the playoffs. That’s a big no-no. And for myself, it wasn’t up to my standards. I hold my-

self to a high standard and I definitely put in the work to try and correct things. I’m in a good mental spot right now, and that’s all I can really ask for.”

Admitting you need to improve is the first step. There’s no shortage of Cubs players, like Almora, who have started off spring training with blunt assessments of their 2019 performances.

“Terrible is kind of an understatement for what I felt like I did last year,” said closer Craig Kimbrel, who imploded in living color during the collapse.

“I feel like I let a lot of our guys down,” added Lester, who posted a 6.70 ERA in eight starts from August through mid-September. “I felt like I let our rotation down those middle months, not taking the ball and giving the innings I’m normally expected to give.”

The bottom line is the computers and oddsmakers now deem the Cubs a non-playoff team.

Last year a Cubs employee wrote the PECOTA projection of an 80-82 record and fifth-place finish on the daily bulletin board in case players missed it. But Ross has no interest in PECOTA. He said he doesn’t have the time to go on the internet and doesn’t want to deal with any kind of outside negativity.

Still, for the first time in a while, the Cubs will enter a season as underdogs, a feeling many of the younger players have yet to experience.

“I don’t know how that room feels,” Ross said. “I don’t want to speak for the players, but from my perspective from how camp is going so far, there’s a lot of energy, a renewed focus I see.”

Maybe a little humbling was all the Cubs needed.

We’re about to find out.

DAYTONA

From page B1

end. Keselowski and Logano are downplaying any feud, but blocking is a legitimate concern for Sunday.

“At the end of the day, you block because it works. It works until it doesn’t,” Clint Bowyer said. “That’s successful until it’s not, and then you’re the bad guy. You’ve wrecked the whole field because it was an untimely block, and you wrecked everybody, but if you didn’t, you should have

and you’re going to lose the race.

“So it’s a tricky thing to judge. It puts you on the spot. And it’s do or die, and it’s a decision that has to be made that fast.”

Kevin Harvick, the 2008 Daytona 500 winner, thinks smart racing will be critical Sunday with drivers having to ignore the way they’ve previously raced the speedway.

“I think survival will be more talked about this year than any year in the past,” Harvick said. “We have all been programmed to block

and do things with the old package for so many years, and this is not the old package. The runs are happening faster. The cars are kind of lining up and spin out really easy to the right when you push them wrong. They are fast compared to where we were before.”

Two-time and defending race winner Denny Hamlin is the William Hill betting favorite at 10-to-1 and his Toyota has indeed been good every time he’s hit the track. And even after he suffered extensive damage in the Clash, he was still able to

push teammate Jones to the victory.

The Daytona 500 has not had a back-to-back winner since Sterling Marlin in 1994 and 1995, and he’s one of only three drivers to accomplish the feat.

“It’s tough, but there is more confidence,” Hamlin said. “I think it’s been really a great run we’ve had over the last eight years in particular. We’ve been a factor to win every Daytona 500 it seems like for the last decade. I come here thinking there’s no reason that should be any different.”

Separate sleeping quarters give loving couple peace

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been married for 45 years. When she moved out of our bedroom, I was shocked. I thought she didn't love me anymore. Then I realized that both our sleeping habits have changed over the years.

Dear Abby



She snores, and I toss and turn. She needs the room dark, while I like a night light so I can see while I walk to the bathroom. I wasn't around when my parents got old, so I didn't realize our sleeping arrangement was going to change. We still love each other, but just sleep in different rooms. Is this normal? – Wondering In California

DEAR WONDERING: The reason for the change is what's important. In your case, it's not because of discord or lack of love. While I would have suggested your wife try various kinds of sleep masks to block out your night light, your new arrangement is not an indication that there is trouble in your relationship. Many couples do this. So stop worrying about whether this is normal and be glad you have a solution that works.

DEAR ABBY: My brother and sister-in-law own a golden retriever. "Cookie" is their baby. The problem is, I live in a place where I can't have pets, plus I don't have a car. I'm disabled, so it's harder for me to get around.

I would love for my brother and sister-in-law to visit me for a couple of days. We live 2 1/2 hours apart. Well, my brother won't come and stay with me at all. He does visit, but only for about an hour or so because they refuse to put Cookie in a kennel.

What should I say to him without causing him to get mad at me? I feel he's putting that dog first, before his own sister. I miss seeing him and his wife. – Dog-gone It In Michigan

DEAR DOGGONE IT: Your brother and sister-in-law's goldie is also a member of their family. Demanding they put Cookie in a kennel is tantamount to telling them they must put their child in foster care for the duration of their visit with you.

If your brother is willing to drive 2 1/2 hours (each way) to visit with you for a few hours, he IS showing his love for you. Can you suggest he arrange for a neighbor to look after Cookie for two days? If not, in the interest of family harmony, stop complaining.

DEAR ABBY: The last of our children has graduated and left the nest. My wife and I are now starting to go through years of boxes, mostly papers and photos. In the process, we have discovered several checks written to us that we never cashed – mostly for Girl Scout cookies or other fundraising items and birthday gifts for the kids.

The checks are mostly more than 15 years old, but they add up to around \$300. Would it be proper to ask the check writers to reissue their checks so long after they were written? We could use the money now. – Questioning In Pennsylvania

DEAR QUESTIONING: You should have been more careful with those monetary gifts. To ask that the checks be rewritten after 15 years would be an imposition and likely not well received. Furthermore, if they were intended for your children for birthdays, Christmas, graduations, etc., any replacement checks should be made out to them, not you.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Hole in a needle

4 Sty habitants

8 Pit

12 Boy

13 Worshipped image

14 Ogden locale

15 Bikini top

16 Valley of grapes

17 Darth's son

18 Own up to

20 Aureate

22— choy

24 Listen

25 Spouse

28 Lowest ebb

31 Pinnacle

32 Ersatz butter

33— -de-sac

36 California's Fort —

37 Land chart

38 Queen of Scots

39 Pretty, in Paris

40 Sea eagle

41 A Beatie

43 Oversee

45 Elves

47 "Married ... With Children" surname

51 Spectacular

52 Quartet minus one

55 Jackie's tycoon

56 Magritte or Russo

57 Auel heroine

58 Travel guide

59 Units of energy

60 Red vegetable

61 Woolly one

DOWN

1 Place of exile

2 Length measure

3 Party cheese

4 Spotted horse

5 Wyo. neighbor

6 Dems.' foes

7 Steel mill refuse

8 Less shiny

9 Chopin opus

10 In the altogether

11 Not now

19 Wild goat

21 John Glenn's state

23 Mound

25— Tse-tung

26 Loan abbr.

27 Danson or Turner

29 Asian mountains

30 Prevent

33 Commuter vehicle

34 Coffee dispenser

35 Drain cleaner

37 Flag holder

38 Bill of fare

39 Fruit drinks

41 Killed musician

42 Firing

44 Depth charge target (hyph.)

45 Marquette's title

46 Iffy attempt

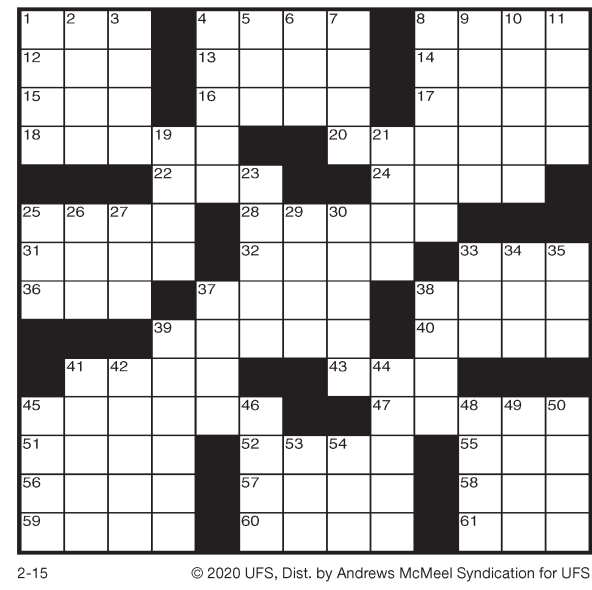
48 Appointment

49 Dead heat

50 Omigosh!

53 Type of whiskey

54 Land in "la mer"



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

		1		3	5						
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2/15

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PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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9	7	5	2	6	8	1	4	3
1	6	9	5	8	2	4	3	7
8	4	3	9	7	1	2	6	5
5	2	7	6	4	3	9	1	8

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TAUSE

CITKH

RLIPAL

LOAPHO

Answer here:

Yesterday's

Jumbles: RARER PETTY OUTAGE TRUDGE

Answer: He tore off the top page of the page-a-day calendar to keep it — UP-TO-DATE



Answer to Previous Puzzle

8 Less shiny

9 Chopin

10 In the altogether

11 Not now

19 Wild goat

21 John Glenn's state

23 Mound

25— Tse-tung

26 Loan abbr.

27 Danson or Turner

29 Asian

30 Prevent

33 Commuter vehicle

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37 Flag holder

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39 Fruit drinks

41 Killed musician

42 Firing

44 Depth charge target (hyph.)

45 Marquette's title

46 Iffy attempt

48 Appointment

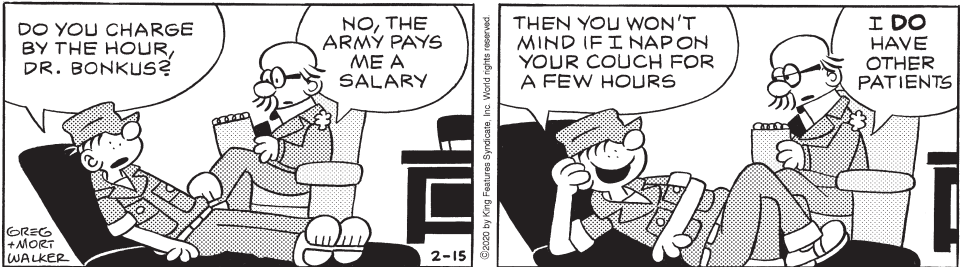
49 Dead heat

50 Omigosh!

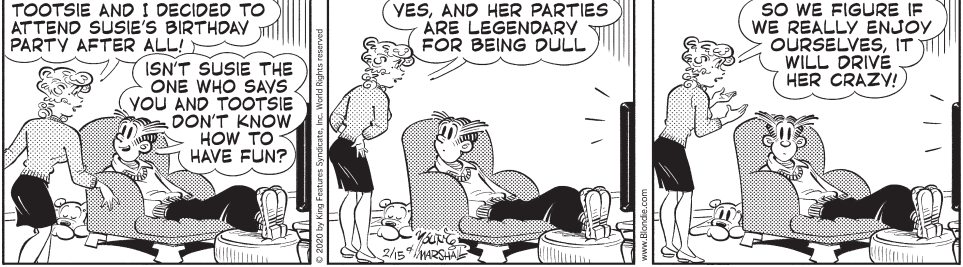
53 Type of whiskey

54 Land in "la mer"

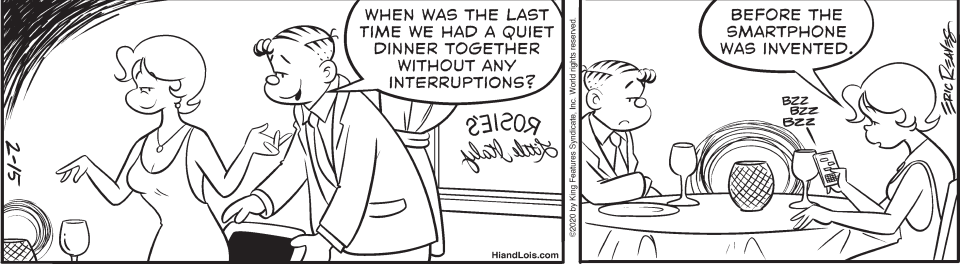
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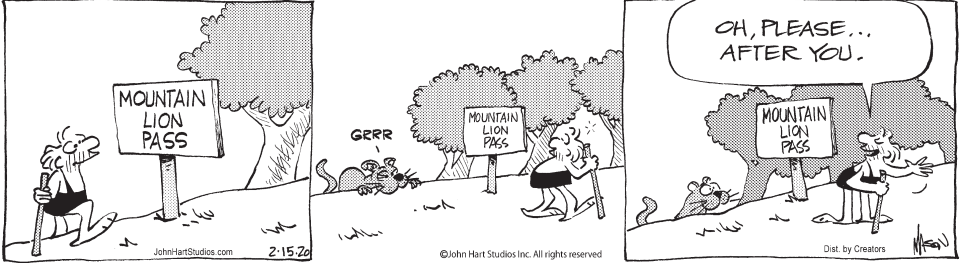
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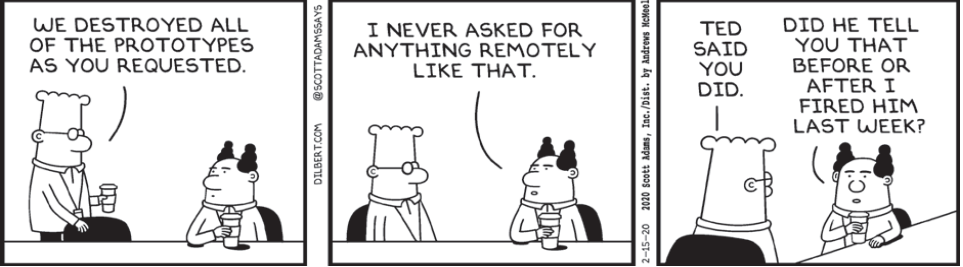
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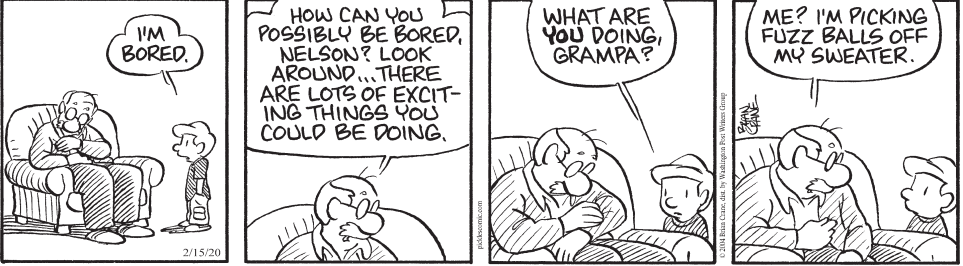
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Christians must always speak the truth, and do it in love

From the writings of the Rev. Billy Graham.

Q: Why must we hurl accusations and hatred? Seldom do I pass someone with a smile on their face or a spring in their step. People seem so unhappy, so burdened; even in families there seems to be conflict present. What has happened in our culture that we cannot at least be civil to one another? — G.P.

Billy Graham
My Answer



A: This generation is quick with the deadly thrust but slow with the ointment of healing. The harsh criticism of others and unfair appraisals of those about us may hurt them, but it hurts us more. The unjust condemnation of others has a boomerang effect. We hurl vindictive indictments with the hope of crippling others, but, alas, we discover

that we are hurt more than they are.

Many people are conflicted today because they are driven away by their own bitterness and harsh words to those who may also need a kind word. Many people go through their entire lives with a chip on their shoulder, carrying hurts and resentments over things that were said or done decades ago. Like a poison, their bitterness has made not only their own lives miserable but the lives of those around them. They have never learned the secret of

forgiveness and forbearance.

The Bible warns us to be on guard "lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble" (Hebrews 12:15). Meekness and forbearance are "musts" if we are to live harmoniously in society and develop healthy homes, families and friendships. While Christians must always speak the truth, we must do it in love. The Bible tells us to "speak evil of no one, (be) peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all" (Titus 3:2)

CELEBRITY CIPHER
by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

"S'GF LMHLVY OLR XDCUSRFCXF.
SE XLTF KFXLZYFS OLGFMDEY
DU SCSESLESGF. SHLCEFR ED
TLNF YDTFEOSCB DU TVYFMU."
— FRRSF TZIAOV

Previous Solution: "You know you're in love when you can't fall asleep because the reality is finally better than your dreams." — Dr. Seuss
TODAY'S CLUE: d s i e n b e v

Virus renews safety concerns about slaughtering wild animals

By **SAM MCNEIL**
and **CANDICE CHOI**
Associated Press

BEIJING — China cracked down on the sale of exotic species after an outbreak of a new virus in 2002 was linked to markets selling live animals. The germ turned out to be a coronavirus that caused SARS.

The ban was later lifted, and the animals reappeared. Now another coronavirus is spreading through China, so far killing 1,380 people and sickening more than 64,000 – eight times the number sickened by SARS.

The suspected origin? The same type of market.

With more than 60 million people under lockdown in more than a dozen Chinese cities, the new outbreak is prompting calls to permanently ban the sale of wildlife, which many say is being fueled by a limited group of wealthy people who consider the animals delicacies. The spreading illness also serves as a grim reminder that how animals are handled anywhere can endanger people everywhere.

“There’s a vast number of viruses in the animal world that have not spread to humans, and have the potential

to do so,” said Robert Webster, an expert on influenza viruses at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee.

SARS and the current outbreak of COVID-19 are not the only diseases in people traced back to animals. The killing and sale of what is known as bushmeat in Africa is thought to be a source for Ebola. Bird flu likely came from chickens at a market in Hong Kong in 1997. Measles is believed to have evolved from a virus that infected cattle.

Scientists have not yet determined exactly how the new coronavirus first infected people. Evidence suggests it originated in bats, which infected another animal that spread it to people at a market in the southeastern city of Wuhan. The now-shuttered Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market advertised dozens of species such as giant salamanders, baby crocodiles and raccoon dogs that were often referred to as wildlife, even when they were farmed.

Of the 33 samples from the Wuhan market that tested positive for the coronavirus, officials say 31 were from the area where wildlife booths were concentrated.

Compared with long domesticated livestock like chickens and pigs, researchers say less is known about the viruses that circulate in wild animals.

The Wuhan market was also like many other “wet markets” in Asia and elsewhere, where animals are tied up or stacked in cages. Activists say it’s difficult to distinguish between those that were legally farmed and those that may have been illegally hunted. The animals are often killed on site to ensure freshness. The messy mix raises the tiny odds that a new virus will jump to people handling the animals and start to spread, experts say.

“You’ve got live animals, so there’s feces everywhere. There’s blood because of people chopping them up,” said Peter Daszak, president of EcoHealth Alliance, which works to protect wildlife and public health from emerging diseases.

And more frequent global travel and trade means there’s greater risk for outbreaks to spread, Daszak said.

China’s taste for wildlife is relatively new, prompted by the country’s economic growth, said Peter Li, who

studies Chinese politics at the University of Houston. But with the outbreak upending lives across the country, many on Chinese social media are expressing frustration that rich people’s appetite for wild animals is again endangering everyone else.

“This is the second time ... the first is SARS, this time is Wuhan. We don’t want a third time,” Lai Xinping, a project cost assessor, said by phone from her home in Sichuan.

“We hate them too, and we are blamed,” said Tao Yiwei, a 36-year-old homemaker. She is among those who want the temporary ban on wildlife, enacted to contain the current outbreak, to be permanent.

There are signs the Chinese government may make more lasting changes to how exotic species are raised and sold. This month, Chinese leader Xi Jinping said the country should “resolutely outlaw and harshly crack down” on the illegal wildlife trade because of the public health risks it poses.

In the eastern province of Anhui, officials sealed farms breeding species like badgers and bamboo rats. In the port city of Tianjin, authori-

ties say their crackdown on the sale of wildlife caught six traders, including three who were selling pythons and parrots.

All told, officials say about 1.5 million markets and on-line operators nationwide have been inspected since the outbreak began. About 3,700 have been shut down, and around 16,000 breeding sites have been cordoned off.

It’s not clear how the measures will play out over time. Before the outbreak began, it was legal in China to sell 54 species like pangolins and civets – as long as they were raised on farms. That made it difficult to distinguish between legal and illegal wildlife in wet markets, and enforcement was lax, said Jinfeng Zhou of China Biodiversity, Conservation and Green Development Foundation, an environmental group based in Beijing.

He pointed to a widely shared image of a Wuhan market advertisement listing 72 species, including peacocks and bullfrogs, as proof that the trade is too lucrative to be stopped by anything less than a total ban on all wildlife. “The profit is huge ... like drugs,” Jinfeng said.

Others disagree, arguing

that banning the wildlife trade is not a realistic way to reduce risk, especially in poorer regions of the world where it can be an important food source.

They say improved monitoring, regulation or public education may better control the problem. When wildlife is farmed, for example, it allows for greater surveillance and testing for viruses, said Daszak of EcoHealth Alliance.

Even if China successfully regulates or bans it, the wildlife trade is likely to continue elsewhere. Recent visits to wet markets in the island of Sulawesi in Indonesia and in the coastal city of Doula in Cameroon revealed similar conditions to wet markets in China. Vendors were slaughtering and grilling bats, dogs, rats, crocodiles and snakes, and sanitary measures were scant.

Ongoing destruction of species’ habitats will likely bring people into closer contact with animals and their viruses, said Raina Plowright, a University of Montana researcher who studies how diseases spread from wildlife to people.

“We are inevitably going to be exposed,” she said.

Spain finds 69 migrants missing for a day in smuggling boat

By **ARITZ PARRA**
Associated Press

MADRID — Spain has located 69 African migrants who had gone missing while trying to reach Europe by boat, the country’s Maritime Rescue service said Tuesday.

A spokeswoman with the government agency said that a merchant ship found the boat some 36 nautical miles south of the Spanish port city of Málaga. An official rescue vessel that had been looking for the group since it went missing on Monday was transferring the migrants to a nearby

port, the official said.

A rescue charity had alerted authorities about the departure of a boat with 67 people from Moroccan shores. The spokeswoman said on Tuesday that the rubber dinghy turned out to be carrying two more people than initially reported, including 13 women and 5 children. She was not authorized to be named in media reports.

The latest rescue comes a day after 119 migrants were found on two smuggling boats in the Alborán Sea, east of the Strait of Gibraltar that separates Europe and Africa.

Refugees fleeing violence and migrants fleeing poverty look for a new life in Europe by setting off on dangerous trips by sea from African coasts.

Spain became the main entry point into Europe for migrants in 2018 but saw the number of arrivals halved last year to 26,168. Recently it has seen an uptick in the number of boats heading to the Canary Islands, which lie in the Atlantic Ocean off Africa’s northeastern coast.

Morocco received \$155 million in European Union funds in 2019 to crack down on illegal migrant crossings.

Spain disputes tech show was canceled for health motives

By **RENATA BRITO**
and **CIARÁN GILES**
Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain — Organizers of the world’s biggest mobile technology fair insisted Thursday that they canceled the annual Mobile World Congress due to health and safety concerns over the virus outbreak in China. But the Spanish government disagreed, hinting that there was another motive for the cancellation.

“This is indeed a very difficult situation and a very difficult decision that we have taken,” Mats Granryd, director general of the GSMA, told reporters in Barcelona on Thursday, a day after they canceled the event.

“Our priorities have been very clear and very simple: The first is health and safety of everyone involved in the show and the second priority is the reputation of the MWC and this event here in Barcelona.”

The decision to scrap the Feb. 24-27 event in Barcelona was taken after dozens of tech companies and wireless carriers dropped out over the COVID-19 virus, including major companies like Ericsson, Nokia, Sony, Amazon, Intel and LG. The companies cited concerns for the safety of staff and visitors.

But the Spanish government said in a statement Thursday it “believes it is not public health reasons in Spain that have motivated the cancellation.”

“There is no public health reason to not hold events of this type in our country,” the government added. It did not say what reasons it thought were behind the decision.

Spain has only two people infected with the virus, neither of whom is in Barcelona.

Barcelona Mayor Ada Colau, sitting alongside Granryd, also said, “neither in Barcelona, Catalonia or Spain does any health concern exist today. There is no local reason” to cancel.

Granryd said the decision had nothing to do with the trade differences between China and the U.S., as suggested by one reporter who noted that some of those that had canceled were at events in Amsterdam.

“Absolutely not. Everyone I have spoken to, this is a health and safety issue concern, concern of travel, concern of having to put business-critical resources in quarantine for 14 days so it has nothing to do with anything else than the force majeure situation of having coronavirus disease spreading on the planet,” Granryd said.

John Hoffman, chief executive of GSMA, emphasized they were dealing with “business-critical people,” including 8,000 CEOs. He said “there was grave concern on disrupting their business not only now but into the future.”

Granryd said GSMA could not discuss the costs of the cancellation, as it was “early days.”

“It’s not about money,” he added.

Hoffman said they had considered a scaled-down event but “all of our buyers have indicated they would not attend.”

He said they looked at the data Wednesday and concluded that the “vast majority of those who planned to attend were not going to be there.”

He said it was not possible to postpone the event because it was impossible to know when the situation would change.

Describing it as “a very dark day,” Hoffman said that the group nevertheless looked forward to hosting the event again in Barcelona in 2021. Barcelona city hall and the national government welcomed this.

The show was originally expected to draw more than 100,000 visitors from about 200 countries, including 5,000-6,000 from China.

The decision stands to be a major economic blow to the city, which has been hosting the event for 14 years.

Colau said “the local impact will be very substantial” and that authorities will consult with those sectors affected to see how they can reduce the financial pain.

The show normally represents a huge source of revenue for hotels, restaurants and taxi companies. Authorities have estimated the show would generate \$516 million and more than 14,000 part-time jobs for the local economy.

With Britain out, the unwieldy EU faces major budget battle

By **RAF CASERT**
Associated Press

BRUSSELS — The Brexit drama shook the foundations of the European Union for years and laid bare the need for much-delayed political renovations at the 27-nation bloc. But now that Britain has finally left, where does the EU revamp even start and who is going to foot the bill?

Those questions loom large for EU officials and European leaders alike, because substantial structural changes require some common vision of what a future EU should look like.

Yet even without such unity, the bloc is already a major construction site – with changes pondered in foreign affairs, business, defense and enlargement into the Balkans, just to name a few projects aimed at making the EU reach its full potential.

The clamor for change has come from both outside and inside the bloc, including from French President Emmanuel Macron, EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and the new EU foreign policy chief.

“It all requires a renewal of the European approach,” Macron said. “We no longer live in the world of the 1990s.”

The EU’s lack of clout to match its potential in the world goes well beyond the departure of Britain. The EU’s institutional quagmire makes smooth, swift decision-making a pipe dream and its shared euro currency proved quite wobbly during the bloc’s financial crisis, which almost saw debt-strapped Greece leave the euro.

But like little else, Brexit brought home the EU’s need to change with the times.

Beyond losing an economic giant, the departure of the United Kingdom was also a geopolitical blow to the EU, since Britain is a U.N. Security Council permanent member with the nuclear weapons and a standing in the world outside Europe that few other countries can match.

Britain’s vote to leave the EU in 2016 was followed by U.S. President Donald Trump’s arrival on the world stage. Since then, the feeling has only grown in the EU that its foreign policy has to change to meet

the bruising, confrontational challenges of a new age.

“The European Union needs to shoulder greater responsibility for its own security and also step up its geopolitical presence,” EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said at the EU parliament this week. “When it comes to something as vital as defense, EU powers are limited.”

That calls for some fundamental changes, Borrell said.

For decades now, the EU has tried to be the counterpoint of alpha male superpower politics, spreading its “soft power” brand across the globe based on economic and developmental aid, cultural clout and the promotion of human rights, among other non-coercive strategies.

That system is now close to a breaking point.

“We Europeans must adjust our mental maps to deal with the world as it is, not as we hoped it would be,” Borrell wrote in an article last week. “To avoid being the losers in today’s U.S.-China competition, we must relearn the language of power.”

That will be something made even more difficult without the military clout of Britain. French leader Macron says “Europeans must take more responsibility for European defense.”

The EU has been stung by the unraveling of its geopolitical pet project, the 2015 Iran nuclear deal with global powers to make sure that Tehran doesn’t produce nuclear weapons. Trump two years ago decided to turn against the deal co-brokered by his predecessor, Barack Obama, and Iran has responded by saying it would ignore some of deal’s demands.

Firas Modad, a senior analyst with IHS Markit, issued a downbeat assessment of the EU’s stature as it struggled unsuccessfully to keep the Iran nuclear agreement intact.

“Europe is regulated from Washington,” he said. “The European banking system depends on the dollar, the European economy depends on the European banking system. The Europeans don’t spend on their own defense. The weak don’t have a say. Full stop.”

Somehow, the EU’s \$16.6 trillion economy is not delivering its political equivalent.

The EU can often be held back by unanimity rules that require everybody to be on board before any action can be taken. And even as it drops to 27 nations with the loss of Britain, the objections and power of a single EU member can still overwhelm reform plans.

To change this paralysis, many in the EU hope to increase majority voting in more cases.

“With unanimity rules,” Borrell wrote last week, “the risk of paralysis is always present. Member states must realize that using the vetoes weakens not just the union, but also themselves.”

This split between what’s good for the EU and what works best for an individual EU member is at the heart of a budgetary quandary playing out these days at EU headquarters in Brussels. The bloc needs to come up with a new, 1 trillion euro (\$1.09 trillion) EU budget – give or take a few tens of billions – for the next seven-year span.

No EU nation wants to pay more to make up for the \$81.5 billion gap the British have left in the next EU budget, but a great many poorer EU members want to receive at least as much from the bloc as they did in the past. And new projects, like the vaunted Green Deal project for the EU to become climate neutral 2050, need to be funded.


To reconcile the irreconcilable, EU Council President Charles Michel has asked EU leaders to see what their budget demands are and how he can temper them ahead of a special summit next week.

The fight comes down to whether the EU’s budget will be 1 percent, 1.1 percent or 1.3 percent of the bloc’s GDP.

That fight over a fraction of a percentage point – as much as lofty goals about the EU’s place in the world – will dominate the EU for the next few months much like Brexit dominated the bloc’s agenda for the last four years.


Still, when EU leaders gather next Thursday for the special summit on the budget their chances of immediate success are considered minimal.

“Arriving at an agreement will therefore be a serious challenge, we all know this,” von der Leyen acknowledged.




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